12 kidnap suspects slain in shootout with police

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

SANTOS

- Vilma Santos, other stars recall how they said yes
- Roberts, Cruise, Hanks–most bankable film stars
- Jolina sparkles in new starrer

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WITH THIS ISSUE
All about élan

- Love need not be a battlefield /C1
- Rare, rich eligible / C2

GONZALES

AT RP'S SERVICE – FOR FREE

MAURICE GREENBERG Chair, CEO, American International Group

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LAURA TYSON, Dean, London Graduate School of Business

PAUL KEATING Former Prime Minister of Australia

ANDREA JUNG Chair, CEO, Avon Products, Inc.

STEPHEN BOSWORTH Former US envoy to RP, Dean, Fletcher School

Gloria talks tough vs terror, a la Bush

EDWIN BACASMAS

SOUNDING like the burning Bush nine days after 9/11, President Macapagal makes a black-or-white declaration on Friday: Either you're for Balikatan or you're not Filipino.

By Carlito Pablo

IT was not US President George W. Bush talking although it sounded like him.

Making her strongest defense yet of the controversial RP-US Balikatan 02-1, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared that anyone opposed to the presence of American forces here to train local troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf was "not a Filipino."

Speaking in Filipino at her weekly press conference in Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said: "If you are not a Filipino, then who are you? A protector of terrorists, a cohort of murderers, an Abu Sayyaf lover.

"You care more for terrorists than for your own soldier who defends you. You care more for bandits and the camp of Osama bin Laden than your country, which seeks to help you."

Bush made a similar black-or-white declaration when he addressed a joint session of the US Congress last Sept. 20, nine days after the terror attacks in the United States.

Warning foreign governments hesitant to help the US government track down those responsible for the attacks, Bush said: "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."

With the snowballing opposition to

GLORIA/A16

GMA has high-powered board of int'l advisers

By Fe Zamora
INQ7.net

A FORMER prime minister of Australia, a former US ambassador to the Philippines and a CEO who was voted among the 50 most powerful women in American business are among the 13-member International Board of Advisers of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Macapagal, however, said the board of advisers offered their services for free. "Those people are so rich. They have big investments in the Philippines," she said in her regular media briefing.

The proposal to hire former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as consultant on peace and order came from the board of advisers.

The board was organized by Roberto Romulo, senior presidential adviser on international competitiveness, "to provide on how to improve the country's global competitiveness and to generate endorsements of the country's economic program."

Romulo revealed the names of the advisers in a letter dated Feb. 6 to Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee.

They are Paul Keating, former prime

GMA/A15

No kissing in public, Yanks in Zambo told

ZAMBOANGA CITY—US troops deployed here have been told not to kiss in public or discuss religion so as not to offend the local folk. The guidelines were included in a seminar held yesterday on "cultural sensitivities" that is part of the preparation for the RP-US Balikatan 02-1.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said the seminar—attended by more than 30 US soldiers and officers at the Armed Forces of the Philippines' heavily secured Southern Command headquarters—was aimed at orienting the Americans on how to act "in a manner that will not become a

NO/A16

CODE-NGO set up $50-M fund from debt swaps

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THIS has got to be the most creative NGO.

A P1.3-billion endowment fund that the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) set up from the proceeds of the controversial flotation of 10-year zero-coupon bonds is not its first "innovative" fund-raiser.

According to its national coordinator, Danilo Songco, CODE-NGO had set up two endowment funds using a scheme that retired part of the country's external debt.

He said CODE-NGO, then chaired by former housing chief, Karina C. David, obtained $50 million worth of funding for local nongovernment organizations through two debt-swap arrangements during the Ramos administration. The government placed the amount in a perpetual fund for NGOs.

Songco said CODE-NGO was able to arrange, with the help of American NGOs, a debt-for-nature swap between the United States and the Philippines in 1993.

The US Assistance for International

CODE/A15

Desierto accuser goes for bigger target–Joe de V

By Christine Avendaño

THE LAWYER who filed the first impeachment case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto prepared yesterday to take on a bigger target: House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Ernesto Francisco Jr., who filed the first impeachment complaint against Desierto and co-signed the second, asked the House of Representatives yesterday to investigate De Venecia for his alleged involvement in stopping the House inquiry into the so-called Petron scam in 1997. He also urged the House to probe the Speaker's reported maneuverings behind the House justice committee's 35-5 vote on Dec. 18 which favored Desierto.

Francisco was referring to Mary Ong's charge earlier this week that she had overheard the Speaker telling the Ombudsman not to worry about the committee vote.

Ong, a former undercover agent and a key witness in the Senate hearings on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged drug

DESIERTO/A15

In actual combat, TOR can't be followed

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE GROUND rules for the joint Philippines-United States Balikatan 02-1 exercise have finally been made public last Thursday. The terms of reference (TOR) which have yet to be approved by the United States and signed by both countries appear to address the objections to the military exercise as infringement on Philippine sovereignty.

The TOR, however, is evasive over the very sensitive question of who is in command. It avoids defining the word "command."

This aspect is fudged by such provisions as the exercise "shall be implemented jointly" by the RP and US exercise directors under the direction of the AFP chief of staff. It says in no instance will the US forces operate independently during the training exercises and that "nothing shall infringe" on the AFP unit commander's "authority," but it also says that "exercise command structure shall provide for separate RP-US components" under the overall supervision of the AFP unit commander who shall make operational decisions at all times. This is a salve to Filipino pride.

On the basis of the draft, some senators had objected that the Filipino commanders could be subordinated by American commanders. It has also been pointed out during the Senate hearings on Balikatan, Washington had impressed on Philippine authorities that the US Constitution prohibits American troops to be placed under the command of other nationals. The way around this, to accommodate US objections, was to use the word "authority" instead of "command," an ambiguity that gives plenty of room for interpretation at operational levels of the exercise.

In summary, the TOR is a fig leaf to assuage nationalist sensibilities with an agreement that addresses their con-

IN/A15

12 kidnappers slain in shootout with cops

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

ALCALA, Pangasinan—Twelve suspected members of a robbery-kidnapping syndicate consisting of former Marines and former communist rebels were killed in a shootout with policemen here yesterday.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza said the members of the dreaded Bagis Gang were about to kidnap a town official when police manning a checkpoint in Barangay Laoac flagged down the vehicle they were riding in. The suspects then opened fire, Mendoza said, but died in a volley of return fire.

Two of those killed were identified as Rolando Franco, reportedly an ex-Marine trooper and listed as the most wanted person in Tarlac, and one Dante, reportedly a former member of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army.

Supt. Agrimero Cruz, chief of the Pangasinan police intelligence division, said members of the Bonnet and Bagis gangs are behind a string of robbery-holdup and murder cases in Pangasinan and nearby provinces.

The Bagis Group has perpetrated several kidnappings in the provinces of La Union, Pangasinan and Tarlac. Mendoza said the gang is composed of former Philippine Marines and former members of the New People's Army.

12KIDNAPPERS/A16

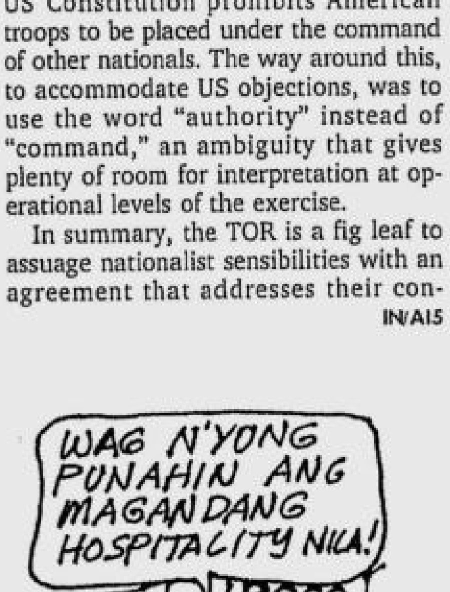
Roco loses cool over posters

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Education Secretary Raul Roco lost his composure after he was asked about the streamers bearing his name that saturated public and private schools here during his visit yesterday.

He snapped at a reporter who asked him during a news conference whether there was any order for the Department of Education's (DepEd) Eastern Visayas regional office to hang the welcome streamers.

"I (gave) no such order," he said,



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obviously irked by the question.

Roco was in the city to attend a regional administrators' forum, which was attended by 1,700 key regional school officials.

The streamers read: "Welcome Honorable Secretary Raul Roco."

ROCO/A15

Second FRONT PAGE

MAY MASAMANG BALAK!

Malaysian with 104 passports arrested

By Norman Bordadora

AIRPORT police said yesterday they have arrested a Malaysian male carrying more than 104 Malaysian passports and cash which they suspect were intended for members of the Jemaah Islamiya terrorist group now on the run in Southeast Asia after the war in Afghanistan.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele, chief of the PNP Aviation Security Group, said police arrested the 36-year-old Azmi Bin Sallech, a Kuala Lumpur resident, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport late Thursday as he prepared to board a Kuwait Airlines flight with a stopover in Bangkok.

"We have information that he is the finance officer of the al-Qaida in Southeast Asia," said Ele, quoting immigration intelligence reports, adding that Sallech was being investigated and questioned about his alleged "cohorts."

Sallech was also found with $57,000, violating customs regulations setting a $10,000 limit to the amount of foreign currency that can be taken out of the country.

The immigration report said Sallech was also carrying a map of Afghanistan and a cell phone with the name Osama bin Laden displayed on the screen, bolstering his alleged links with the Jemaah Islamiya, a group linked to bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Malaysian Ambassador Taufik Mohamed Noor told AFP that initial investigations showed that Sallech wanted to apply for visas in Manila for a group of Malaysians seeking to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca.

This was apparently to circumvent regulations, which require prospective Malaysian pilgrims to obtain their visas in Kuala Lumpur in line with a country quota imposed by the Saudi authorities.

Malaysians are also required to use accredited agencies to make travel arrangements to Mecca.

"Initial investigations show he was trying to beat the Malaysian regulations and might be trying to use the Philippine quota as the Malaysian quota may have already been filled up," Taufik said.

He said Malaysian laws also barred its citizens from holding another person's passport.

The Malaysian passports and money concealed in Sallech's hand-carried luggage were discovered when the luggage went through the airport x-ray machine, an airport police officer said.

Investigators said Sallech entered the country on Feb. 5 with two other suspected terrorists—another Malaysian and a Thai.

The Thai, identified as Asak Akong, reportedly slipped out of the country early on Tuesday, taking a Philippine Airlines flight to Bangkok.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo has alerted immigration intelligence agents in all the country's ports to be on the lookout for Sallech's countryman, who remains at large.

She said the investigation into Sallech and his associates would focus on learning more about the movements of international terrorists around Southeast Asia.

Police have been on heightened alert, particularly at international airports, since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Last month, police arrested Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, described as a key leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah, which authorities believe maintains terrorist cells in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Al-Ghozi, identified as an Indonesian, gave information that led to the discovery last month of more than a ton of TNT buried in the backyard of a house in General Santos City. ***With a report from AFP and AP***

AZMI bin Salle explains possession of 104 "questionable" Malaysian passports, $57,000 in cash and a map of Afghanistan when presented to media Friday at the Manila international airport.

AP

'Demolition man' admits funding Rizal Day bombers

By Christine Herrera

THE SUSPECTED Indonesian bomber, tagged as the "demolition man," admitted to prosecutors yesterday that the Jamah Islamiyah, an underground group affiliated with Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, provided funding for the explosives used in the Rizal day bombings.

However, Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, alias Sammy Sali Jamil, denied direct participation in the crime.

But he admitted giving Hadju Onos alias Muklis a total of P250,000 to carry out the terror attacks.

Al-Ghozi is under police custody and is facing charges of illegal possession of explosives.

Muklis, a certain Col. Efren Torres and Sammy Arinday had been indicted for multiple murder following the bombing in the LRT Blumentritt station that left 22 persons dead and scores wounded.

Al-Ghozi affirmed before a panel of prosecutors headed by Peter Ong the content of his affidavits.

He said Muklis was a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

It was Muklis, he said, who accepted the money used in procuring the explosives used in the bombings.

In a two-page supplemental affidavit dated Jan. 19, signed by his lawyer Confesor Sansano, Al-Ghozi said he went to see Muklis in November 2000 in Marawi City to seek his help in acquiring explosives in Cebu City.

Upon reaching Cebu, he said, he gave Muklis P190,000. Another P60,000 was handed to Muklis when they both went to Manila.

"He (Muklis) asked for financial support. Our boss Fais (Bin Abu Bakar Bafana) approved of the plan (bombings) because of our campaign for 'jihad' (holy war) in the Philippines," Al-Ghozi said.

Ong told reporters that they have yet to decide whether they will include Al-Ghozi as one of the accused in the Rizal Day bombings.

Expat with bad PR arrested for working here without permit

A MALAYSIAN executive of pharmaceutical giant Zuellig Agrochem Corp. was arrested by immigration agents on Thursday for working in the country without a permit.

Malaysian Wong Kooi Bee, 43, is being detained at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation office in Intramuros while her case for deportation is being evaluated.

Wong, who uses the alias Sharon Wong, is the finance and administrative manager of Zegro Corp., which was formerly known as Zuellig Agrochem Corp.

Wong was arrested on Thursday inside her office at the Emmanuel House Bldg. on Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village in Makati.

In his report, immigration agent Carlito Bautista said Wong's arrest stemmed from a complaint from a Zegro Corp. employee who claimed the Malaysian was "anti-Filipino" because of her "abusive and arrogant behavior" toward Filipino employees. ***Blanche S. Rivera***

Socialized scheme proposed to raise SSS premiums

By Carlito Pablo
and Agnes E. Donato

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has said the Social Security System should look into a socialized scheme of increasing premium payments to head off a looming financial crisis.

The state-run pension fund said it planned to raise members' contributions to nearly twice their current level as it faces the prospect of being wiped out in 2015.

Ms Macapagal, who has to approve the increase, said the SSS should study a socialized scheme so that members from the higher-income bracket and those wishing to receive higher pensions would bear the burden of the additional premiums.

"If you want additional benefits, there should be some form of voluntary, over-and-above increase in contributions," she said at her weekly press conference yesterday.

The planned increase in contributions "should be biased against those in the higher-income bracket," she said.

The SSS has projected that the funds to finance its payouts of retirement and other members' benefits would be wiped out in 13 years, or by 2015, unless premiums are radically raised.

Of the 24 million SSS members, 800,000 are currently pensioners. With improved life expectancy, their number is increasing.

The agency also said that payments for members' benefits have been rising from between P5 to P6 billion each year.

In a radio interview yesterday, SSS president Corazon de la Paz said the last increase in premium payments was made in 1980, although the scheme had been approved in 1972.

"We conducted a study in 2000 and our analysis was that if we don't change the rate of contribution which has not changed since 1980, while benefits have increased 10 times since 1990, SSS funds won't last beyond a certain period," De la Paz told dzMM radio.

But she clarified that the plan was still "being talked about" and was not being implemented yet.

The SSS has been holding consultations with employers and labor groups, which jointly pay the SSS premium payments.

Of the 8.4 percent present rate of contribution, employers contribute 60 percent while employees put up the remaining 40 percent.

In a dialogue with leaders of militant groups yesterday, De la Paz said the SSS was also looking for other options to shore up its fast depleting funds.

One of these was the President's suggestion of a socialized scheme. This means that those with lower incomes would be levied a lower rate hike while those in the higher-income groups would get a correspondingly higher rate increase.

"We are also studying the collection system being used by our counterparts in other countries," De la Paz said.

She cited the Hong Kong practice in which members' contributions progressively decline the older they get.

Members of the militant groups Sanlakas and the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) yesterday staged a picket in front of the SSS main office on East Avenue in Quezon City to protest the planned increase in contributions.

BMP Secretary General Leody de Guzman said it was "unjust" for the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to reduce the workers' take-home pay in order to resolve the SSS financial problem.

"What the workers need is a wage increase, not additional deductions from their already meager income," De Guzman said.

"Why must workers bear the brunt of keeping the SSS afloat when it was not the beneficiaries who bled it dry but the SSS's previous administrators?" he asked.

He maintained that the government should instead subsidize the contributions of the SSS's 24 million members by re-channeling the government's budget from debt servicing and the congressman's pork barrel to social welfare.

From Bacolod City, Rep. Monico Puentevella said the SSS should cut down the number of its top executives to shore up its resources instead of raising the members' premiums.

The SSS could save money by reducing the number of its vice presidents, which now stands at 59, Puentevella said.

"We have to restructure (the) SSS, there is no company in the world with 59 vice presidents. Not even San Miguel Corp., the number one business conglomerate in the country, has that many," he said.

Puentevella said many legislators are opposed to the SSS plan to raise its premiums because it should not try to save money at the expense of its contributors.

"What is needed is to restructure the salaries within the SSS and its system of expenditures," Puentevella said, noting that in 1999, the SSS spent P188 million for its Christmas party.

"This (should) never happen again," he said. ***With a report from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Improving life expectancy rates wreaking havoc on pension fund

IMPROVING life expectancy rates are wreaking havoc on the country's main pension fund, the Social Security System, which is set to be exhausted in 13 years unless premiums are radically raised, its president said yesterday.

"Not only is the population rising, but the life span of retired workers receiving pension benefits is getting longer," SSS president Corazon de la Paz told dzMM radio.

At the time the last pension contributions were set in 1980, "their estimated life span after retirement was only 15 years. Based on our recent experience, this has reached 22."

The government put the life expectancy of Filipino men last year at 66.63 years and women at 71.88, both improving by 0.3 years, or about 4 months, from a year earlier.

The national population is projected to grow to about 80 million this year, and there would be 1.06 million more Filipinos aged 60 and above in 2005 compared with 2000, according to official National Statistical Coordination Board projections.

An in-house SSS study in 2000 found that at the current rate of premiums, the fund would be wiped out in 2015, De la Paz said.

"It is possible that this figure has deteriorated even further and the 15 years may not be the length any more of the life of the fund," she said.

The SSS, which has 24 million members, paid out P7.61 billion more to pensioners than the total premiums collected last year, official figures show.

That same year, the fund's net profit plunged 41.6 percent from a year earlier to P2.67 billion.

The money collected monthly from members, an amount equivalent to 8.4 percent of their salaries is "among the lowest in the developing countries," De la Paz said.

Singapore and Malaysia, by comparison, collect "upwards of 25 percent."

She said the fund is holding consultations with employers, which contribute two-thirds of the premium for their employees, as well as with labor groups.

Increasing premiums would require the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

De la Paz said the President had ordered SSS officials to "go to the people, to Congress and explain to them what is happening." ***AFP***

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Abus kill 6 Army soldiers in Sulu ambush

Firefight fatalities include young PMA graduate who died on the spot

By Hernan P. de la Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

AT LEAST six soldiers, including a junior officer, were killed yesterday morning in an ambush by Moro extremists in Patikul, Jolo, Sulu, the Armed Forces said.

A military spokesperson said attackers were suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits, but another report identified the extremists as followers of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari, the former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor who is now facing charges of rebellion.

The attack came in the wake of heavy preparations for the start of Balikatan 02-1, the controversial Philippine-American training exercise.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the AFP's Southern Command, said a 12-man team belonging to the 59th Infantry Battalion led by 2Lt. Raymond Arnais Hernandez were on foot patrol in Barangay Tugas in Patikul and were on their way back to camp when the bandits fired at them at around 8:30 a.m.

Hernandez's team engaged the attackers, which Servando said was composed of some 50 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Tahil Sali, in a 20-minute firefight. But the soldiers were overpowered, Servando said.

Hernandez, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Sanghaya Class 2000 and operations officer of the 59th IB, died on the spot along with four of his men, while a sixth succumbed to his injuries. There were no immediate reports of casualties on the rebels' side.

Servando said the Army has mounted a pursuit; soldiers were still scouring the area as of press time.

The military estimates about 300 Abu Sayyaf bandits are operating on southern islands, including about 70 on Basilan, north of Jolo, where they have been holding American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap hostage for eight months.

Two years ago, Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Jolo seized dozens of hostages, including foreign tourists seized from a nearby Malaysian resort and journalists, and later released them reportedly in exchange for huge ransom payments.

The Philippines and the United States opened last week a joint military training exercise aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf.

About 660 US troops, including 160 from the Special Forces, would be involved in the exercise. The US Special Forces will join front line troops on Basilan and will be armed only for self-defense.

Officials have announced no plans to hold any exercise on Jolo.

Another report said attackers are believed to be followers of Misuari, who is detained at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The 60-year-old Misuari, the founder of the Moro National Liberation Front, launched last November a short-lived rebellion in Jolo in an attempt to prevent the holding of elections to choose his successor.

The revolt was quashed and Misuari was later arrested after illegally entering Malaysia while fleeing Jolo. He has been repatriated to the Philippines and is facing trial for rebellion.

Despite the failure of his revolt, some of Misuari's armed followers remain active in Jolo island, his former stronghold. ***With reports from AP, AFP***

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21 Chinese fishers arrested by Navy off Palawan waters

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Philippine troops have detained 21 Chinese men who sailed into waters off the western island of Palawan in the second such incident in nine days, the Navy said yesterday.

A total of 116 Chinese are now in Philippine custody on the island and could face stiff jail terms under criminal charges being brought against them for flouting laws to protect the environment, the authorities said. (***See related story on Page A13, Across the Nation.***)

Navymen boarded a fishing vessel near the island of Balabac, off the southern tip of Palawan on Thursday arresting 21 people on board, Navy spokesperson here said. They declined to say what they found on board.

Last week, 95 Chinese men, all from the island province of Hainan, were arrested when the Philippine Navy caught them fishing aboard four boats near the Tubbataha Reefs in the Sulu Sea, a protected marine sanctuary east of Palawan. One other boat fled.

Navy men said they believed the latest boat to be caught was the same one that escaped when the other four vessels were detained. It was being towed toward Puerto Princesa.

Philippine authorities have taken a hard line with those arrested found with endangered species, corals, cyanide poison and dynamite aboard their vessels. Criminal charges have been filed against the group carrying a maximum 20-year jail term.

In the past, Chinese fishermen caught in Philippine waters were swiftly deported after being sentenced by Filipino courts to avoid diplomatic problems with China.

But Joselito Alisuag, executive director of a government council in charge of environmental laws, reiterated he hoped these would go to prison.

China's consul general Chu Tao Ying arrived in Palawan on Thursday and met with the naval chief and the committee to discuss the issue.

"She discussed the usual stuff—that we should be lenient with the Chinese fishermen because diplomatic relations might be strained but we told her that cases are already filed in court," Alisuag said. ***AFP***

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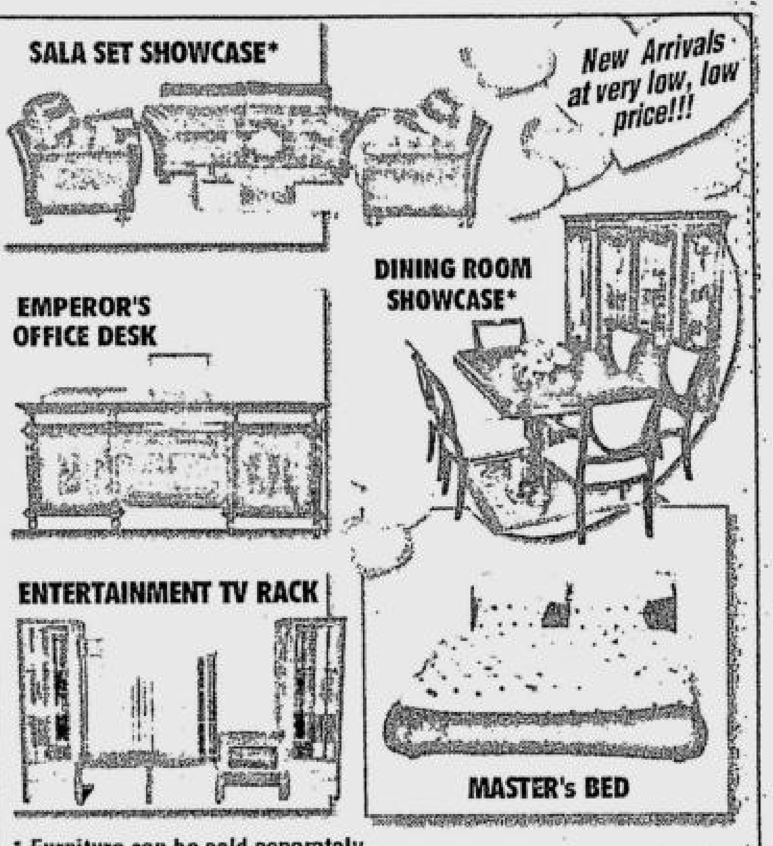

Devnani says armed men out to abduct him

By Armand N. Nocum

AN INDIAN national, who linked ex-President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson to kidnapping and other criminal activities, yesterday complained that unidentified persons have been tailing him and his family members.

Danny Devnani said two people on board a white Nissan Vanette were seen tailing his car as he was passing by Coastal Mall in Parañaque City, which is located near his house.

"They would have succeeded in abducting me had not my driver noticed them and tried to give chase," Devnani told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Devnani also brought the matter to the attention of Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, which alerted the INQUIRER about Devnani's "foiled abduction."

Devnani said he already reported the matter to ISAFP Chief Col. Victor Corpus.

He said they also checked the car's plate number with the Land Transportation Office, but found out that it belonged to a Mitsubishi car.

"Their purpose may not be to kill me, but to abduct me," he said, adding this was hatched as the Lacson investigations have "quieted down" and any harm done on Devnani will not be blamed on his supposed enemies.

Erap lawyers question fitness of 2 prosecutors

By Volt Contreras

THIS time Joseph Estrada's lawyers are protesting the presence of two department officials doubling as state prosecutors in the ex-president's plunder case.

After opposing the court's plan to hold more frequent hearings, the lawyers asked the Sandiganbayan yesterday to disqualify Dennis Villa Ignacio and Alexander Padilla from serving as prosecutors "deputized" by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Villa Ignacio is concurrently with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, while Padilla is with the Health department. Both have the rank of undersecretaries.

"Prosecution of criminal cases is simply remotely related to matters of health and social welfare," the defense lawyers said in an 18-page motion.

It may appear to be a retaliatory act.

Last year, prosecutors questioned the entry of retired Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas as lead counsel for the ex-president.

They then argued that Cuevas, who also served as a justice secretary under Estrada, should not be defending a case being prosecuted by the very government which has been providing his pension.

They were fighting a law that says no retired justice, while receiving pension, should appear as counsel in a civil case wherein the government is the adverse party or in a criminal case where an officer or employee of the government is accused of an offense in relation to his or her office.

This time, Cuevas and company contend that tapping Villa Ignacio and Padilla as prosecutors violates the constitutional provision barring "Cabinet members and their undersecretaries from holding any other office or employment during their tenure."

It also violates the Civil Service Law "prohibiting the appointment of a person in the non-career service from performing duties properly belonging to the career service," the Estrada lawyers said.

The deputization by Desierto also "encroaches on the President's control over the Executive department."

Worst over for RP, says Gloria

THE PHILIPPINES has reached the bottom of the economic and political decline which has dominated her turbulent first year in office, President Macapagal-Arroyo said in an interview released by the presidential palace yesterday.

"Yes, the worst is over from the point of view of political stability and for the economy now," she said in a transcript of a television interview conducted late Thursday.

"And because we're stable now, we're poised to focus on work to be done, on how much we can make the poor feel the (impact of) development," said Ms Macapagal, who stormed into power in a military-led popular uprising that ousted her predecessor Joseph Estrada in January last year.

MACAPAGAL: We have hit bottom

Estrada is currently under detention and on trial for corruption. Thousands of his followers, mainly from the urban poor marched on the presidential palace on May 1, igniting the worst rioting in Manila in three decades.

Ms Macapagal said the riot was a veiled attempt to unseat her, adding a flurry of coup rumors last month had fizzled out amid improving economic conditions.

"They (investors) all waited for Jan. 20 to see if the coup rumors will really take place. But the coup did not take place," the President said.

Philippine gross domestic product grew by a better-than-expected 3.4 percent last year amid political turbulence and simultaneous recessions in the United States and Japan, its two main trading partners.

Earlier this week global credit rating firm Moody's Investors Service revised the outlook for Philippines sovereign bonds to stable from negative, citing Macapagal's efforts to restore fiscal order.

Macapagal said the good news has been reflected in Philippine stock prices, which are up by 15 percent so far this year.

Asked if the threats against her government are gone, the President said: "As far as sources of instability, yes . . . I think the sources of instability are gone."

"That is why there is no more 'wait and see' in stock market investment. There is now full mobilization. It's pouring in."

She also credited increased confidence to the arrival of hundreds of US troops for joint operations with the Philippine military aimed at crushing Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrilla kidnappers in the south.

"It's a combination of the arrival of the Americans and my political leadership, and I know the solutions to our (law) and order problems." ***AFP***

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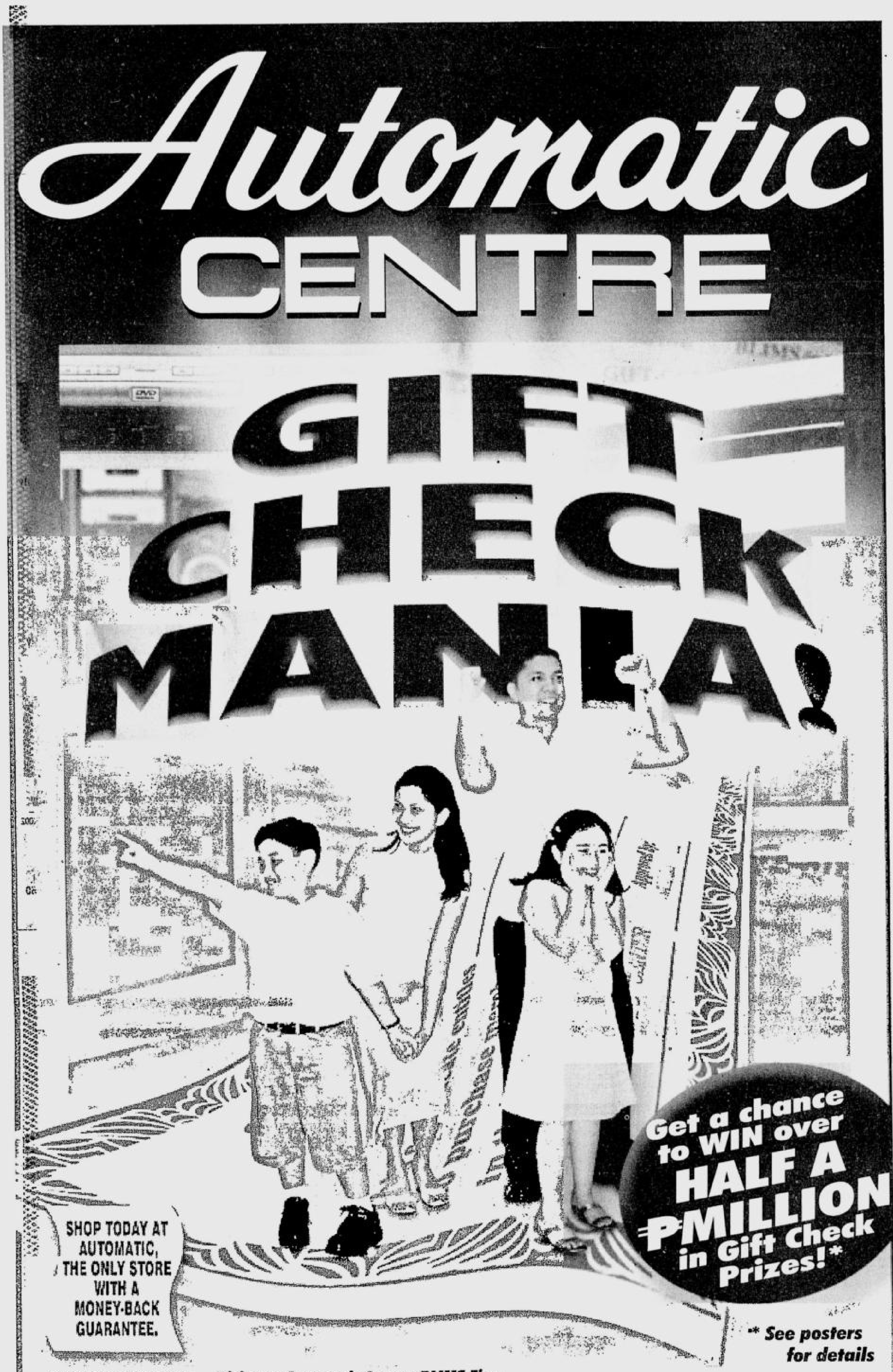
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Batanes opens first Internet station today

By Juliet Cataluña
PDI Northern Luzon Desk

BASCO, Batanes—After years of isolation from cyberspace, this northernmost province will be linked to the rest of the country and the world via the Internet.

The Ivatan Foundation for Development Inc. (IFDCI) will launch today, Saturday, the province's first Internet station called "Batanesconnect."

The station is linked to the rest of the world via satellite with full Internet access.

Batanesconnect is a joint project of the IFDCI and the Ph. Domain Foundation, a Manila-based group that provides free Internet bandwidth. Telsat Inc. provides the satellite service.

Aside from the station, the foundation will also connect government offices here to the Internet using 15 remote sites that use wireless technology.

Demetrius Paul Narag, IFDCI executive director, said after the telephone link, the Internet is the second breakthrough introduced by IFDCI to Batanes.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, who is expected to attend the launching rites, hailed the management and the IFDCI board of directors for working hard to realize the project.

The provincial government and Abad's office extended the financial support for the project.

Gov. Vicente Gato and Abad said the Internet would hasten implementation of projects and programs of both the government and the private sector through access to the latest in communications technology.

Ferdinand Elica, a non-government official, said the launching of Internet station is a giant step toward the development of Batanes by making it more attractive to investors.

NEWSBRIEFS

2 bombers arrested

POLICE yesterday announced the arrest of two suspects in the Jan. 21 bombing at a public market in Alabang, Muntinlupa that killed three persons and injured several others. The suspects were identified as Abdul Samad Hassim and Amanolah Serad. Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Hassim was arrested in Montalban, Rizal Wednesday night. Serad, on the other hand, was nabbed at the Alabang public market Thursday night, he said. Police are still hunting another suspect. A witness had tagged Hassim as the one who lobbed a grenade and Serad as the one who rolled a bottle of explosives under a vehicle of the Muntinlupa Traffic Enforcement Division (MTED). *TJ Burgonio*

Korean 'Yakuza'

AN ALLEGED South Korean gang leader, who had been accused of raping a young Filipino tutor in a Pasay motel last December, was nabbed at a bar in Makati on Thursday, police announced yesterday. Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested Byeong Koo Lee, tagged as a leader of the Korean syndicate Dajeon-Sageori, while about to enter the K P International Bar on Kalayaan Avenue. Dajeon Sageori is the Korean counterpart of the Japanese Yakuza. Byeong's arrest was based on an arrest warrant issued by a court in Jeonju District in South Korea, where he is facing charges for raping a 26-year-old woman, CIDG chief Director Nestorio Gualberto said. Gualberto told a press conference that the CIDG mounted a hunt for Byeong shortly after a 21-year-old woman filed a complaint accusing him of sexually assaulting her inside a motel in Pasay City last December. "I'm not guilty," the Korean, aka Bruce Lee and Samuel Lee, said when he was presented to the media. *TJ Burgonio*

Legal options eyed

CITING "surprise provisions," in the controversial policies governing the recruitment industry, major recruiters yesterday said they were reviewing legal options against the Department of Labor and Employment. The Federated Association of Manpower Exporters, Inc. (FAME), which represents around 800 recruitment agencies, said some provisions were "unjust and unconstitutional." "We're worried," FAME spokesperson Loreto Soriano said in an interview yesterday, adding they felt "bitter" about the government's crackdown on recruiters on a year that has been proclaimed as "Year of the Overseas Employment Providers." *Blanche Rivera*

Fish pen moratorium

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday asked the local government of Bolinao, Pangasinan to impose a temporary moratorium on the construction and operation of fish cages to contain the massive fish kill that continues to spread to more villages. A halt to the construction and operation of fish cages will allow the depleted oxygen level in the area to recover after the massive fish kill which hit the town on Feb. 1. Damages are estimated to have reached close to P600 million. The municipal council of Bolinao had already declared a state of emergency in the town and declared it a calamity area. *Gerald Lacuarta*

'Day of the Sick'

THE PHILIPPINE Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in coordination with the Healthcare Ministry of the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City will celebrate the 10th World Day of the Sick at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Rev. Msgr. Francisco Tantoco Jr., magistral chaplain of the Order of Malta and executive director of Caritas-Manila, will preside over the Concelebrated Mass that will be followed by the blessing and anointing of the sick by the other priest celebrants. Rev. Father Antonio Ma. Rosales, OFM, Parish Priest of Sanctuario de San Antonio will read the three-page special message to the sick from the Holy Father.

Requiem for Flordeliza

A REQUIEM Mass in memory of Flordeliza Abad de Leon will be held at 6:30 p.m., March 7, at the Resurrection Parish Church, B.F. Homes, Parañaque. Mrs. De Leon died of a heart attack on Jan. 27. She was 70 years old. She is survived by her husband Orestes and daughters Myra, Marissa and Mariflor. March 7 marks the 40th day since Mrs. De Leon passed away

Macapagal not keen on visiting Misuari

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is not keen on visiting former Gov. Nur Misuari after what happened the last time she visited another prominent detainee.

She said she was severely criticized when she visited ousted President Joseph Estrada in detention.

"Look at the flak I got," she said in her weekly news conference.

She said unlike in Estrada's case, there is no clamor for her to visit Misuari.

"I mean, really if there's a clamor then I would weigh that clamor against (what) the critics (say). There are critics but there's no clamor," she said.

She added that she has not received any letter from Misuari.

Misuari was charged with rebellion for allegedly instigating the bloody attacks in Jolo, Sulu, and Zamboanga City in November last year.

He reportedly wrote to the President after he was turned over by Malaysian authorities, but Ms Macapagal ignored his appeal.

Misuari now occupies the detention facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, especially constructed for Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, who are being tried for plunder.

Ms Macapagal visited the Estradas in their Sta. Rosa detention after their supporters stormed Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

A few weeks later the Sandiganbayan granted the Estradas' request to be transferred to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN

Street kids pose problems to DOH teams; extension eyed

By Armand R. Nocum, Ayan C. Mellojar and Charlie C. Señasa

PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE HEALTH department's anti-polio vaccination drive has encountered problems administering the vaccine to street and slum children and authorities are thinking of extending the program beyond the planned 14-day period.

The first round of the vaccination drive ended on Thursday but the health department plans on extending it beyond the second week-long round which starts on March 2.

An official of the Department of Health's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (HNCDPC) said some neglectful parents got in the way of their making a 100-percent saturation rate in the Feb. 2 to 8 first round.

"There are homeless parents who resist having their children vaccinated. These are people who live in tunnels, under bridges or in boxes out in the streets and who are exposed to all kinds of bad microorganisms," said Norma Escobido, the head human management officer of the HNCDPC.

She said these are the parents who don't believe in having their children medicated until they are really very sick or dying.

Other parents in slum areas, she said, also resist vaccination, arguing that their children were already given anti-polio vaccines.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has ordered a national vaccination program to cover even children vaccinated because of the outbreak of a new polio strain that causes paralysis, maiming or death.

Because of resistance from parents, Escobido said some health teams only managed to penetrate about 75 percent of the number of children targeted for vaccination.

Medical teams in rural areas are expected to visit 100 households a day while those in the metropolitan centers must reach 200.

Escobido said much of the health workers' time was being eaten up by discussions with parents resisting vaccination. In some areas, they have to bring along local and barangay officials to help convince parents of the need for the vaccine.

Escobido said they get better cooperation in middle-class neighborhoods, where homeowners organizations have taken it upon themselves to apply the vaccines.

In Chinese-Filipino communities, business chambers have also offered to accompany health workers so residents wary of kidnapping would not shoo them away.

"We encountered extreme reaction from the opposite end of the economic spectrum," she said.

Because some health workers have failed to reach their intended targets, Escobido said the DOH was leaving it up to its field teams to extend the program beyond yesterday's deadline until such time as they are able to reach all beneficiaries.

But even in areas of conflict like Basilan, the anti-polio drive has gained wide acceptance with 5.4 million children already immunized four days after it started on Feb. 2, Dayrit said in Davao City on Thursday.

He said it was important for the government to ensure that the whole country was covered. Failure to do so would mean at least 10,000 children, aged 5 years and below, could fall victim to the polio virus each year.

Late last year, the Philippines was basking in the distinction of being a polio-free country.

Toward the end of 2001, however, health officials discovered at least three polio cases, one of which occurred in Cagayan de Oro City.

The government blamed the "low immunization coverage" in the years after 1993 for the emergence of a "wild polio virus" which was detected in March.

"This is a mutant strain that we are now trying to flush out," Dayrit said.

At least 65,000 health workers have been mobilized for the national immunization drive.

In Basilan and some areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where there are conflicts or problems of insurgency, members of the Armed Forces have taken an active role in the immunization program.

The government had budgeted P200 million for the national immunization drive. The amount was augmented by a $1.6-million assistance from the World Health Organization.

The United Nations Children's Fund has also donated 28 million doses of anti-polio vaccines.

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Hostage to allies

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said at the 11th anniversary celebration of the Philippine National Police on Thursday that she was keeping Leandro Mendoza as PNP director general for another nine months. Mendoza is due to retire on March 17, when he turn 56.

The extension of Mendoza's term was announced as the President ordered an intensified campaign against kidnapping in the face of a rising tide of abductions in recent weeks.

One target is the Pentagon gang, which has seized Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni in Mindanao. The PNP was given the responsibility for this campaign. Another target is the Abu Sayyaf, but it is the Armed Forces that has the principal responsibility of going after them.

The fresh campaign against kidnapping and the extension of Mendoza's term are incongruous. It does not appear that Mendoza got an extension because of the PNP's sterling record in the anti-kidnapping campaign. The new campaign is linked to the President's emphasis on restoring law and order in Mindanao, particularly in areas with large Muslim populations. It is intended to show that she is doing her part in the US-led coalition fighting transnational terrorist networks, including the Abu Sayyaf.

Apparently, Mendoza's extension is an attempt to prevent any disturbances over succession at the PNP and to make everybody happy within the hierarchy. Next in line to Mendoza is Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. The President has noted that Ebdane is still young and he will have his day until 2004.

Last October, amid rumors of a coup plot, Ms Macapagal hinted that she might extend Mendoza's term. That left Ebdane disappointed, as well as another senior police official who was eyeing Mendoza's job: Reynaldo Berroya. Mendoza, Ebdane and Berroya were in the thick of conspiracies inside the Armed Forces and the PNP aimed at withdrawing military and police support from former President Estrada, and obviously, they were looking to be rewarded. Berroya is now chief of the strategic Central Luzon PNP command, and Ebdane has been named deputy director and put in charge of the anti-kidnapping task force.

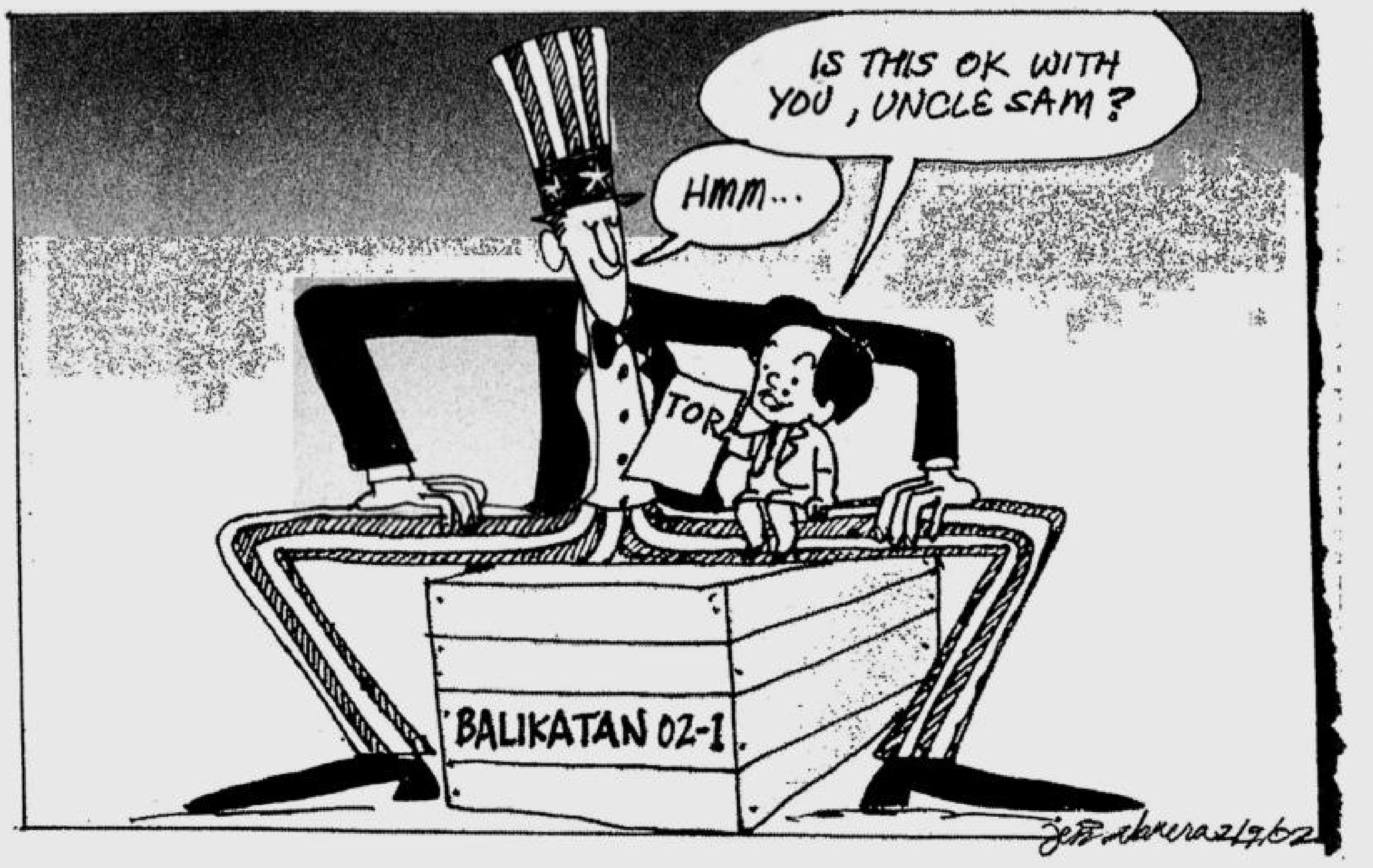
During the dying hours of the Estrada regime, Mendoza staged a mini-coup at Camp Crame, seizing control from Estrada's PNP chief, Panfilo Lacson, who was one of the last generals to leave Malacañang after the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the PNP defected to the forces at Edsa. But the key to the success of the Crame coup was Ebdane, who had links with strategic special forces units in both the PNP and AFP, and with the Marines. He had the military muscle, but Mendoza was more aggressive and high profile.

Mendoza had been bypassed by Lacson for the top PNP post during Estrada's regime. He got his reward after taking control of Crame. And the President has continued to distribute rewards to help consolidate her position in the PNP at a time when her government faces destabilization from her political adversaries who would not let pass an opportunity to recruit support for coup plots inside the PNP and AFP.

Ebdane's record in the PNP is recognized by most of its officers, and even by Lacson, who considers him highly qualified for the top police post. But the President has many political debts to pay among members of the multi-faceted coalition that helped her win power from Estrada. Ebdane's record in the fight against kidnapping is also recognized by the Chinese-Filipino community. And he can be no less loyal to the President.

Mendoza has already been amply rewarded—in a manner that might even be out of proportion to his contribution in the ouster of Estrada. Among the PNP officer corps, Mendoza is better appreciated as an officer with a shrewd political sense than as an anti-crime campaigner. Why he would remain at the top when kidnapping and other crimes are on the rise is hard to justify.

It appears that to this day Ms Macapagal remains insecure about her grip on power. And like any other insecure political leader, she has to rely on political rewards to strengthen her position against plots by her political adversaries. That makes her hostage to her military and police allies.



Guingona as Hamlet

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SOME friends have asked me to write on the dual status of Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. as Vice President of the Philippines and foreign secretary. This little lecture is for them and all others similarly interested.

When Edsa II expelled Joseph Estrada from Malacañang last year, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over as his constitutional successor. This left her original position vacant. As she herself would not have her own substitute in case of her temporary or permanent inability to discharge her new office, it was necessary to set in motion Art. VII, Sec. 9 of the Constitution.

This section, a new one in our Constitution copied from Amendment 25 of the US Charter, provides as follows:

"Whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of the Vice President during the term for which he was elected, the President shall nominate a Vice President from among the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who shall assume office upon confirmation by a majority vote of all the Members of both Houses of the Congress, voting separately."

The word "shall" indicates the mandatory sense of this provision. Apart from this legal construction, there was also the strong political pressure from the rival candidates and the nation for the new President to choose the next Vice President soon.

It was not surprising that President Macapagal nominated Senator Guingona for her former office. There was not much of a contest; he had the distinction of being the first legislator to call for the impeachment of Estrada. The nominee was unanimously confirmed by the Senate and the House of Representatives and assumed office as the first appointive Vice President in our history.

Although he became Vice President by grace of the President and Congress, Guingona has the same authority as an elective Vice President. Sec. 8 provides that "in case of death, permanent disability, removal from office or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall *become* the President to serve the unexpired term." The Constitution does not distinguish between an elected Vice President and an appointive one.

The Vice President who permanently replaces the President can exercise all the powers and functions of his predecessor. Harry S. Truman was not an elected President when, as the deceased Franklin D. Roosevelt's constitutional successor, he ordered the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That reluctant decision ended World War II and changed the world.

Art VII, Sec. 2 provides that "the Vice President may be appointed as a Member of the Cabinet." The provision is merely directory as indicated by the word "may." The appointment is not obligatory on the President and neither is its acceptance on the Vice President. President Carlos P. Garcia did not invite Vice President Diosdado Macapagal to his Cabinet because they were from opposite political parties. By contrast, Macapagal's daughter, also from the opposition like her sire, accepted President Estrada's invitation.

The appointment of the Vice President to the Cabinet is assumed if he and the President come from the same political party. The practice began when President Manuel Quezon made Vice President Sergio Osmeña a department head and was followed by succeeding presidents. It was in keeping with this practice that President Macapagal chose Vice President Guingona as her foreign secretary.

The President and the Vice President do not necessarily or often see eye-to-eye even if they are party mates. As Vice President, Emmanuel Pelaez had a falling-out with Macapagal, Lopez with Marcos, Doy Laurel with Aquino, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Estrada. Guingona's misgivings about the Balikatan exercises in Mindanao and reports of his diminishing authority as foreign secretary may foreshadow an eventual rift between him and the President.

If his relations with President Macapagal turn sour, can Guingona resign as foreign secretary? Of course he can. He can quit the Cabinet for any reason he sees fit even as the President can sack him at will in her own discretion. Guingona may have moral qualms about resigning because he owes his two positions to the President. But these are not constitutional constraints.

If Secretary Guingona decides to resign from the Cabinet, will he also cease to be Vice President of the Philippines? Not at all. His incumbency in this office is not dependent on loyalty to the party in power or on the President's goodwill. Although not by direct mandate of the electorate, he is holding a constitutional office—the second highest in the land. He cannot be removed from this position except through the process of impeachment.

Of course, he can resign as Vice President and go back to the quiet anonymity of private life away from the hustle and bustle of the hustings. That's a consummation devoutly to be wished by many of us but not, if I know him, Tito Guingona. What will you do, dear friend, without the slings and arrows of public office and the welcome though obtrusive glare of the accustomed limelight? Decision, decisions!

There is hope

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"WEALTHY we do not think it will ever become: the advantages conferred by Nature, with the exception of the climate, and the level of indolence and pleasure of the people themselves forbid it. They are a happy race and being content with little are not likely to achieve much."

When participants—very young, very bright—in a forum were asked what and whom the quote alluded to, many of them, including members of the panel on stage, thought that it was the Philippines and the Filipinos being described. Some even thought the quotation was from Rizal, who after all, had written "The Indolence of the Filipinos," or something similar.

The quotation was the last slide in a presentation accompanying a talk given by UP School of Economics dean Raul Fabella at the Ayala Young Leaders Conference a couple of days ago. The topic was globalization, and Fabella had posed the question "Is There HOPE?" in connection with the Philippines. In particular, whether the Philippines had the capacity to benefit from globalization. His last slide had the question printed at the top, and the quotation directly under it.

This was Fabella's clever way of answering the question. Understanding dawned on the audience when he pointed out that the place and people being described was not the Philippines, but Japan in the late 19th century, as seen through the eyes of foreigners ("The Currency of Japan," 1881). And if Japan could change, so can the Philippines.

Fabella was one of three speakers who gave their views on the topic, the others being Asian Development Bank executive director Cayetano Paderanga Jr., and Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, who has a Ph.D. in political science and lectures at both the Ateneo and La Salle, making him stand out as a legislator. A fourth speaker had been invited—Party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo—but unfortunately he backed out at the last minute.

Ocampo and Acosta presumably were to focus on the dark side of globalization, with Paderanga and Fabella dwelling on its benefits. What happened was that all three presented both sides of the globalization coin, which really was to be expected, all of them being in academe and used to the one-hand-other-hand approach. And the participants got a bonus in the form of Amando Doronila, who came to observe the conference, and who could not resist making his views known in the open forum that followed the speakers' presentations. (Simply put, he felt that economists may be too constrained in their analysis by their urge to quantify everything, and non-economists tend to be "wooly"—a very graphic term which must be a legacy of his Australian period.)

While the speakers were all experts, Fabella's presentation, was particularly delightful because his analysis was done with a humorous, common-sense approach that was Mark Twain-ish in flavor, and which captured everyone's rapt attention.

In his discussion of what a country's capacity to benefit from globalization will depend on, he listed strong governance, strong physical infrastructure and strong human infrastructure as among the important factors. He deplored the "divide by n" rule which seems to prevail in Philippine infrastructure decisions, exemplified by dividing a budget equally among all municipalities, so that everyone ends up with a tenth of a kilometer of road; the attempt to benefit all ends up benefiting no one (as far as access to markets is concerned).

Fabella borrowed from the vernacular—"SUCs (State Universities and Colleges) Suck"—and the natural sciences ("Governance and human capital can be considered as stem cell capital") with equal ease to make his points.

He provided biting social commentary: "If politicians can be exported, the Philippines would be a rich country." Or, "Governance is the weakest link in the Philippine value-chain." Or, "'Leadership as Exemption': The higher up you go, the more exempt you are from the rules." Or, "The 'What's in it for me?' rule is a reflection of the collapse of the Filipino Social Contract."

With his very receptive audience of young leaders from all over the country, Fabella shared his concept of leadership: a leader as *servus inter pares* (servant among equals) rather than *primus inter pares* (first among equals); a leader as enforcer of rules, rather than as exempt from the rules; and a leader as a Voltairean Gardener, tending and nurturing his garden instead of despairing that so many other gardens are untended.

If Fabella and his co-panelists enlightened their audience on the issues, the audience reciprocated by asking very thoughtful, searching questions, which at times caused friendly debate on the part of the panel (and which prompted Doronila to jump in). Like the impact of the euro and the feasibility of making the Asean a single-currency area; or whether devaluation should be avoided (the Argentine case), or the extent to which the control of environmental degradation should be pursued (so long as the extra benefits of control are greater than the extra costs).

Which, in the final analysis, makes that description of late 19th century Japan unnecessary to tell us that there is HOPE for the Philippines. The knowledge that we've got youth like the Ayala Young Leaders is enough.

No such thing as 'Sikatuna Office'—Romulo

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER FOREIGN Secretary Roberto R. Romulo wrote Senate foreign relations committee chair Blas Ople to explain his "advisory role in foreign affairs." He stressed that he couldn't attend the Senate hearing as he was still in Vancouver, but he felt the need to clarify and answer the questions regarding that role that had become quite controversial. There were allegations that Romulo ran a "shadow DFA" that marginalized Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona in policymaking and appointments in the DFA.

Romulo explained that he was appointed senior presidential adviser on international competitiveness soon after President Macapagal assumed power, when she had not yet named her foreign secretary. His task was to draw up a comprehensive plan to improve RP's credit sovereign risk rating, restore investor confidence, build bilateral and multilateral economic support for long-term development and raise RP's importance as a "crucial ally of the US" in regional security in East and Southeast Asia. Among the steps taken to carry out this plan was the setting up of an international board of advisors composed of top global business and academic leaders and a government advisory council here. Both groups were composed of prominent people, and among their recommendations was the hiring of the Burson-Marsteller public relations firm to project the Philippine image abroad and improve bilateral relations with the US. Though Romulo did not say so, the highly controversial proposal to hire former New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani as GMA's consultant for security appeared to have come from this group. Romulo stressed that one indication of the advisory group's success was the invitation wangled from President George W. Bush for GMA to visit, and a measure of Romulo's strong ties with American officials was that he was the only non-legislative and non-Cabinet member in the Oval Office during her call on Bush.

* * *

It was Romulo's explanation on his "advisory role in foreign affairs," however, that was most interesting to Ople. Confirming his assistance in preparations for Ms Macapagal's successful US visit, he said that this was done upon her request, and that the Philippine Embassy informed the DFA about all his activities in the US capital. He said that other than this role in GMA's official visit, he had "not taken part in any other policy decision relating to (RP-US) bilateral relations, let alone on military matters." Romulo also stressed that the alleged shadow DFA, referred to in that department and by media as the "Sikatuna Office" was "purely the concoction of somebody's fertile imagination." He said that while the President sought his advice prior to Guingona's appointment as foreign secretary, the day-to-day operational matters were the "exclusive responsibility" of the latter. "I provide advice on DFA matters only when asked," he said. He added that he has not aspired and "do not now aspire" for the DFA top post.

* * *

I believe Romulo's disavowal of ambition for the DFA post, for he has been heard telling some former colleagues there that he had already been "burned" in that post. But talk of a parallel organization at the DFA had persisted for months until it came to a head over the Balikatan controversy, with the evident marginalization of Guingona in the early going. The apparent division of loyalties in the DFA has become quite detrimental, bringing the premier Cabinet post to a sorry state.

But it seems that the fault lies not with Romulo since his services were sought and he delivered, but with the President's interesting style of management. It's only she who can restore order and sanity to the DFA, and the two men, both competent, don't have to quarrel over turf. If GMA wants Guingona fully to run the DFA and keep Romulo as international competitiveness adviser, there's no question why they couldn't complement each other. Guingona's detractors have tried to portray him as a bumbling old man, but as the Senate hearings showed, his nationalist vision remains quite clear and his mind is still strong and vigorous.

* * *

Last Sunday at 9:15 p.m. over dzRH, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and I again tackled the problem of poverty in our radio program, with my old friend from Upsca days, former RFM president Augusto "Gus" de Leon as our guest. We will continue that very lively discussion this Sunday. Gus is involved in an NGO called Kasangyangan Foundation Inc. which is engaged in agrarian reform and sustainable development in Mindanao. For one hour we discussed the KFI's various programs to empower the rubber plantation workers in Basilan and the banana farmers of Davao, but what I found most interesting was De Leon's observation that farmers must be linked up with markets if our farm population is to be uplifted.

He gave a concrete example: Robsen, a big food processor in Pulilan, Bulacan, needs a lot of fruits and root crops such as *ube* and beans (*kadios*) for distribution to end-users, but it cannot get enough of these from the farmers since there is no mechanism for putting the farmers' produce together. Robsen needs as much as 250 tons of *ube* for a big ice cream manufacturer. He pointed out that many of these products can be grown even in the backyard and firms like Robsen have the technology to process them and the capacity to market them.

Even the *saging na saba* is always in short supply, he said, since banana cue makers gobble up the supply fast. How to link up the farmers with the processors and the markets remains the big question, as sometimes their produce ends up nearly rotting.

Talking about V-Day

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF you bought a ticket to a show called "The Vagina Monologues," would you be shocked if the actors started talking about—what else?—vaginas?

In Malaysia, producers said authorities have banned a rerun of the play after they reportedly received complaints from the public. "For now, we are still not sure about the details, because it was shown here before and well, we never had any problems," a spokesperson for the producers said. "We received a letter from City Hall instructing us to cancel the show because there were complaints but it didn't say exactly what."

Agence France Presse reports that "Vagina Monologues" was a sell-out when it made its debut in January.

The New Straits Times reported that the producers would seek further explanation for the ban, and would continue pushing for its lifting. "We want to find out what are these complaints, who made them and whether there are any specific items we can look into," producer Marion D'Cruz said. Notices had been put up outside the theater stating that the play contained "adult material" but, D'Cruz added, the play was neither vulgar nor "bad." "We staged the play not because we wanted to do something controversial or shocking, rather we feel it is a piece of work that is important and has a message."

* * *

AUDIENCES in Manila and around the country are quite aware of "Vagina Monologues" since it has been staged in both its English and Filipino versions in both commercial venues and campuses in the past two years. "Vagina Monologues" in fact is one of the longest-running off-Broadway presentations and has been translated into many languages. In the process, it has defied cultural, political and religious barriers to proclaim the message not just of women's repression and oppression, but also of empowerment, sexuality and sensuality.

In its present form, "Vagina Monologues" contains a monologue on how female audiences have struggled against taboos and censorship to spread the word about the play. I'm sure Malaysian women will now have their own anecdotes to add to this portion.

So popular and powerful is "Vagina Monologues" that it has spawned a worldwide movement. Every year, women all over the world get together to observe "V-Day," a collective effort to end violence against women. Over 800 V-Day events are scheduled this year, but the one in Manila will be extra special because of the presence of Eve Ensler, the playwright. The Philippine event, produced by Monique Wilson's acclaimed theater group The New Voice Company, is the second largest V-Day event next to New York.

The local V-Day event is known as "Kababaihan: A Gala Benefit Performance of The Vagina Monologues," bringing together over 75 Filipino women artists "to declare the Philippines a rape-free zone." For the first time in this country, women from theater, TV, film, media, politics, literature, art and the recording and concert stage will join forces in one rousing evening of performance and advocacy to raise funds for groups that provide help and services to survivors of rape, domestic violence and other forms of abuse. Beneficiaries include the Purple Rose Campaign against Trafficking, the Women's Crisis Center, Kalakasan and Womenlead.

"Kababaihan" goes onstage on Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater). Ticket prices range from P50 to P1,200, still reasonable since you're in for a rollicking and rowdy time, promise!

* * *

NOW on to the "other" V-Day, Valentine's Day, of course!

Youthful award-winning composer Trina Belamide has just released a single dedicated to "lonely hearts," titled, of all things, "Happy Valentine's Day." The song won overall second prize in the 1999 USA Songwriting Competition against more than 31,000 song entries from over 50 countries, making Trina the first and only songwriter from Asia so far to win one of the top prizes.

"I found myself wondering one day why all the Valentine songs I was hearing were happy songs when it's a fact that not everyone is happy on Valentine's Day," Trina explains. "It's a song that speaks to all people. It tells those who are lucky in love and romance to have a little more compassion for those who aren't. And it reminds those who are loveless that they are not alone." How sweet.

* * *

QUITE another Valentine's Day concern is a letter that the administrators of Paco Catholic School sent to the parents of their students denouncing a Valentine's promo of 7-Eleven.

The school directors said 7-Eleven stores are giving away condoms as promotional items. "In our opinion, this kind of promotion greatly affects the innocent minds of our children," the administrators said, calling the promo "a direct and blatant attack against your family, maybe without your knowing it."

From what I hear, Paco Catholic School is not alone. Catholic lay organizations have reportedly already approached the management of several supermarkets and drugstores to "persuade" them not to sell condoms in their checkout counters. So now, anyone who wants to buy a condom will have to search the aisles for it, or buy it from a salesperson.

Frankly, I don't see what such a campaign would accomplish, aside from raising our rates of unwanted pregnancy and STDs. Statistics tell us, after all, that young people are having sex these days regardless of the occasion. Sexual responsibility includes refraining from sex until you're ready to face the consequences, but it also means seeking protection from such consequences for your and your partner's sake.

Axis of Evil League

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

SORRY, I could not resist sharing this. My friend Leslie sent it to me and it's just too funny to keep to myself.

In Speech, Bush Calls Iraq, Iran and North Korea Axis of Evil—N.Y. Times, 1/30/02

Angered by the snub, Libya, China and Syria form Axis of Just as Evil. Cuba, Sudan and Serbia form Axis of Somewhat Evil. Other nations start own clubs.—Beijing (SatireWire.com)

Bitter after being snubbed for membership in the Axis of Evil, Libya, China and Syria today announced they had formed the Axis of Just as Evil, which they said would be way eviler than that stupid Iran-Iraq-North Korea axis President Bush warned of in his State of the Union address.

The Axis of Evil members, however, immediately dismissed the new axis as having, for starters, a really dumb name. "Right. They are Just as Evil...in their dreams!" declared North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. "Everybody knows we're the best evils...best at being evil...we're the best."

Diplomats from Syria denied they were jealous over being excluded, although they conceded they did ask if they could join the Axis of Evil. "They told us it was full," said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"An Axis can't have more than three countries," explained Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "This is not my rule, its tradition. In World War II you had Germany, Italy and Japan in the evil axis. So you can only have three. And a secret handshake. Ours is wicked cool."

International reaction to Bush's Axis of Evil declaration was swift, as within minutes, France surrendered. Elsewhere, peer-conscious nations rushed to gain triumvirate status in what became a game of geopolitical chairs. Cuba, Sudan and Serbia said they had formed the Axis of Somewhat Evil, forcing Somalia to join with Uganda and Myanmar in the Axis of Occasionally Evil, while Bulgaria, Indonesia and Russia established the Axis of Not So Much Evil Really As Just Generally Disagreeable.

With the criteria suddenly expanded and all the desirable clubs filling up, Sierra Leone, El Salvador and Rwanda applied to be called the Axis of Countries That Aren't the Worst But Certainly Won't Be Asked to Host The Olympics. Canada, Mexico and Australia formed the Axis of Nations That Are Actually Quite Nice But Secretly Have Nasty Thoughts About America, while Spain, Scotland and New Zealand established the Axis of Countries That Want to Be Allowed to Ask Sheep to Wear Lipstick. "That's not a threat, really, just something we like to do," said Scottish Executive First Minister Jack McConnell.

While wondering if the other nations of the world weren't perhaps making fun of him, a cautious Bush granted approval for most axes, although he rejected the establishment of the Axis of Countries Whose Names End in "Guay," accusing one of its members of filing a false application. Officials from Paraguay, Uruguay and Chadguay denied the charges.

Israel, meanwhile, insisted it didn't want to join any axis, but privately, world leaders said that's only because no one asked it.

* * *

In the meantime, my daughter also got into the act and sent this list of "Weird Things You Would Never Know," which may or may not help you at your next sit-down dinner. Caught as we are between the government and the military, if we're going to survive them, we had better keep our sense of humor.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world's nuclear weapons combined.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.

Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

Only one person in 2 billion will live to be 116 or older.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks more an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

A snail can sleep for three years.

No word in the English language rhymes with "month."

Average life span of a major league baseball: seven pitches.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

All polar bears are left-handed.

In ancient Egypt, priests plucked every hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

"Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.

"Go" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall.

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.

A different kind of magic

YOUNGBLOOD

Danica Salazar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT all began with the movie.

My 12-year-old cousin and I went to see "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." I wanted to watch the film because I had read all four of J.K. Rowling's books and I was curious about how the filmmakers adapted the first one for the big screen. My cousin wanted to watch the film because she had seen the trailer and thought that Daniel Radcliffe was cute.

I, with my relatively extensive background knowledge of the entire Hogwarts world, should have been more excited about the movie. But no, before I even knew what had possessed her, my cousin was already plastering her bedroom walls with Harry Potter posters and golden snitches, and was actually reading the first book. She hadn't even finished the last few chapters, and already she knew more about the world of wizardry than any other Muggle like her. I was pleased because my cousin had finally discovered the magic I myself discovered years before.

I am not talking about Harry Potter sorcery. I am talking about the magic of reading.

It was not a skinny, green-eyed orphan boy with a lightning-shaped scar that motivated me to read. It was plain boredom. I was barely 4 years old when I decided that I was sick of running around outside and getting my knees scraped. I wanted to learn how to read and I was not about to wait for formal schooling before I started. So by the time I was in nursery school, I had already read Cinderella, Snow White and Sleeping Beauty a hundred times even as my classmates were still struggling with their vowels and consonants.

My reading skills developed as I went on to kindergarten and then grade school. My vocabulary grew and I would read anything that had letters on them. I would read normal kid stuff, storybooks and comics, and I would also read things like recipe books, Avon catalogues, product manuals and nutrition information on the packages of my favorite snacks. Anything with words was fine with me.

As I grew older, I became more selective with my reading material. Early in grade school, my obsession was with textbooks and encyclopedias. Instead of playing with other kids, I would stay at home, pore through books that were for grade levels higher than the one I was enrolled in, and immerse myself in the fascinating worlds of science and technology, painting and sculpture, music and drama, history and politics. I had my Hutchinson's Concise Encyclopedia in place of a teddy bear. I became such a hermit that my great grandmother said she was afraid I would end up in a lunatic asylum before I was 10.

Third grade was very memorable because of two very important events. First, I reached the high point of dorkiness when the doctor told me to wear eyeglasses. I was diagnosed with myopia, a congenital defect, so reading had nothing to do with it. But people were not aware of that when they saw me hunched over volumes of books with thick lenses perched on my nose.

Second, I rediscovered fiction. My fascination for factual knowledge was superseded by the lure of the imagination. I still have my very first novel: "A Little Princess" by Frances Hodgson Burnett. My textbooks ended up in boxes and my shelves began to fill up with paperbacks. I started with the children's classics first: "The Secret Garden," "Heidi," "Little Women," "Anne of Green Gables." Later, I moved on to other literature. I read Twain, Dickens and Dumas at the same time that I read Nancy Drew. Libraries and bookstores were my frequent haunts and I would save my lunch money, not to buy clothes or shoes or toys, but to buy books.

For me, the books that filled up shelves over my desk and boxes under my bed were not just sheets of paper bound together. They were instruments of enchantment. Through their pages, I was magically transported to a world beyond the one I knew, a fairylike realm created by the authors' words. It did not matter that in reality, I had not gone any farther than Leyte, for in my imagination, I had already been everywhere: in the Swiss Alps with Heidi, in the British moors with Mary, even in Wonderland with Alice.

It also did not make any difference that I was really just a kid with limited experience, for through my ever-increasing number of books, I had gone through the most significant periods and events in history. I did not mind that my childhood came and went without me having known how to ride a bike or play Chinese garter, for I knew how to do other things, even if only in theory, like how to react to four ghosts that would suddenly visit on Christmas Eve, what to do when suddenly transported to the time of King Arthur, how to know whether or not a person is a vampire.

I did not care that some people teased me about my thick glasses and for being a recluse because I knew I possessed a power they did not have: the power to unlock doors of fantasy and knowledge.

Now I am almost 18 and I have left my childhood behind. I have changed a lot over the years. I have traded my glasses for contact lenses and I have acquired many new friends and a variety of other interests. But when my friends are busy with their own lives, and when the Internet is dull and uninteresting, I still turn to the shelves and boxes that house my faithful companions. I open them and still fall under the same spell they cast over me as a child. I still have the power to unlock old magical doors and other enchanted gates yet to be discovered. I am certain I will forever live with the magic that I found in reading.

I am a bookworm, and proud of it. I feel sorry for all the kids nowadays who have never found pleasure in reading. I believe modern distractions such as TV and video games have made today's children miss out on something wonderful. If there is anything that reading has given me, aside from poor eyesight and an overactive imagination, it is a sense of purpose. My books make me aware that I am living in a big, complex world where everyone has a place, and that it is my duty to find my own place and, just like characters in stories, try to make a significant contribution.

This sense of purpose is something no child should ever grow up without. That is why when I see children lining up in bookstores just to get their chubby little hands on Harry Potter books, I am so glad. We owe Rowling a vote of thanks, not so much for sharing with us the magic of an endearing wizard-in-training, but for inviting young people, such as my 12-year-old cousin, into an enchanted world where magic is made, not with the swish of a wand, but with the turn of a page.

Danica Salazar, 17, is a freshman at the University of the Philippines in Diliman majoring in European Languages.

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The right to breathe clean air

THE TIME for tolerance is over. I demand clean air for me and my loved ones!

Obnoxious "smoggers" who couldn't care less about others should be taught a lesson. Exile them to an isolated dump where they can inhale the most horrific smoke from burning putrid garbage. Leave them there until they croak.

Inutile lawmakers in Congress should be tied to their chairs in a sealed chamber and gassed until they turn blue and roll over from the toxic fumes of smoke-belching vehicles.

Most of all, enforcers of the law who turn out to be wimps should be hogtied and suspended from an airport tower to ingest air from jet fuel until they hallucinate.

Maniacal thoughts, you say? Blame it on the accumulated lead in my brain!

As it is, we get more than our share of pollution not only from fumes of vehicles traversing the South Luzon Expressway every few seconds but also from burning aviation fuel at the airport. To add burning garbage, plastic, rubber or dead leaves to these two pollutants is one misery too many.

I have appealed to the appropriate authorities where we live and I am still hopeful that they will enforce an existing but conveniently forgotten directive against burning. Nothing concrete has been done up to now.

A written reminder to residents making them aware of base regulations would have sufficed. The bike patrol could have helped by admonishing offenders when they make their own rounds. After all, living on-base is a privilege and not a right. Rules have to be followed.

As citizens of this country, we should contribute solutions to pollution and not be part of the problem. In our own simple way, we can encourage others to segregate, compost and recycle. We should have a strong sense of community.

We can avoid irritants and ill will by being considerate of others. Every single time we burn something, children with asthma and other respiratory problems suffer tremendously. Elderly people with pulmonary ailments suffocate.

It is our right to have clean, breathable air. If we do not make our voices heard now, oxygen may end up being bought like water and that would be scary!—**RHONA HOTCHKISS, 9006-16 Cendaña St., Villamor Air Base, Pasay City**

Walking the path of honesty and integrity

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I AM writing in reference to the article last Feb. 2, titled "Baguio judge exposes 'hoodlums in robes'." In this article you mentioned the names of judges who had been accused by a colleague of acts ranging from the criminal, the adulterous and even a very insignificant vehicular mishap. In this article you failed to mention what each of them was accused of and in so doing you did everyone a great injustice. You have, together with Judge Ruben Ayson, destroyed reputations that have taken a lifetime to build.

My husband, Judge Edilberto T. Claravall, has always walked the path of honesty, truth and integrity and it saddens me that because of petty bickering and irresponsible journalism all that he has worked for is threatened and tarnished.

Ayson's order accused him of having bumped another car in the parking lot of a hotel when they were having a judges' conference in Manila last November 1998. This misunderstanding was cleared promptly with no problem to any party, and for this, your newspaper called him a "hoodlum."

We are heartened by the fact that immediately after your very damaging article came out, so many people rallied behind us and gave us their full support without even knowing what accusation had been hurled at my husband. Friends whom we have always considered to be our wealth are what are sustaining my family now. They are now clamoring that he do something to clear his name but alas, this is not possible due to the gag order issued by the Supreme Court.

My husband will follow due process. In fact, he welcomes the investigation as he knows that this will clear him of any venomous accusations. After all, his life is an open book; he hides nothing and fears no one.

On my part, I can only console my children's aggrieved hearts and reply to their query as to how this can be done to someone so honorable by telling them to trust in the Lord and to know in their hearts that no one can put a good man down.

We hold our heads high for it is we, his family, who know him and have seen his goodness, his honesty and unwavering crusade to help the downtrodden and give them the justice they deserve.

To you who are so quick to accuse and to condemn, may God have mercy on your souls.—**PILAR L. CLARAVALL, Baguio City**

Is the SSS now threatening retirees?

ON JAN. 24, 2002 a news item said the Social Security System is pressing its bid to raise members' contributions. It said that unsound enhancement of benefits and the improving life span of Filipinos were depleting SSS resources. Thus an increase in the contributions of its members and a delay in the retirement age were necessary so that the SSS will be able to provide the pension benefits of the current 24 million members.

It seemed as if SSS Administrator Corazon de la Paz was threatening the SSS members and pensioners: "If you don't give this increase you will not receive your pension when you retire."

I am no longer a contributing SSS member, I am now a pensioner. As a matter of fact, I and the rest of our kind are requesting for an increase in our monthly pension since the amount we are getting now is not enough for medicine and daily expenses and so many other needs. I was a contributor for more than 30 years before I retired. If the threatening statement was aimed at us, does it mean we pensioners will be deprived of our pensions and we should consider going to a public home for the aged? *Huwag naman.*

As SSS members and pensioners, we are like stockholders of the SSS. As stockholders, we are entitled to know the financial status of the SSS yearly. So I suggest, that the SSS publish or send each member a copy of its financial statement every year. Maybe a law mandating this should be passed so that the SSS funds will not be indiscriminately invested or spent.—**AMELIA M. GLORIA, 2546 Tindalo, Tondo, Manila**

Modern-day hero

YOUR half-page write-up about Dr. Guia Abad was truly commendable. (Science/Health Section, 1/26/02) During these hard times when people are looking for role models and modern-day heroes to carry us through, Dr. Abad aptly fits this role.

Notwithstanding her age and illness (she is regularly undergoing treatment and follow-ups for breast cancer), as the article said, Dr. Abad has never grown weary of looking after the health needs of underprivileged folks in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, 40 hours or more a week. She doesn't stop there; she still worries about the welfare of her fellow municipal health workers, hence her plan to revitalize the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines.

She was there working with lawmakers increasing the benefits of public health workers, and as a result they were included in the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers. When the status of health workers was being compromised during the early days of the implementation of the Local Government Code, she was there leading doctors in mass actions demanding better treatment from local officials.

She always seems to be there when you need her the most. And what is amazing is that she does it not for personal interest but for the welfare of her countrymen, patients and health workers alike!

The title of the article was "Community health workers need more support." Allow me to modify it so that it would read: "The country needs more individuals like Dr. Abad!"

To Dr. Guia Abad, *maraming, maraming salamat po sa lahat ng inyong mga tulong at kalinga. Mabuhay kayo!*—**GODWYN N. BERNARDO, M.D., MPH, Office of the Provincial Governor, Province of Cavite**

Without thinking

LAST week, a glum looking Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon admonished those who attacked a German and an American trekking the Mt. Pinatubo trail. He lamented that the perpetrators were doing a great disservice to our country with their action.

Now, I know why our tourism industry is in decline. It's not because of the Sept. 11 attack. It's not because of the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or the New People's Army. It's because we have a tourism secretary who shoots his mouth off before thinking or in this case before finding out what really happened.

Did it not occur to Gordon that it could have been a simple case of murder or a holdup attempt? Just because a foreigner said that they were attacked, do we have to take it hook, line and sinker?

The same goes for the police who seem to investigate every crime under the direction of the media.

Almost twice a month, your paper reports Gordon delivering policy speeches in some foreign country or publishes a picture of him tagging along with the President in her provincial sorties.

Day in and day out, all the problems of this country are traced to either the economy, and by that I mean the economic problems of other countries affecting ours, or politics caused by an unruly opposition. But never have I heard officials owing up to their blunders and saying sorry.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao has been caught time and again by the media with his foot in his mouth but not a single apology has come from him.

But then again maybe the reason these two are being kept in the Cabinet is that they provide entertainment to an entertainment-starved nation.—**CHRIS VILLANUEVA, Subic, Zambales**

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The WORLD

Editor Luvern B. Gueco

US applies Geneva rules to Taliban

WASHINGTON—The United States brought a new group of prisoners from Afghanistan to a detention camp in Cuba Thursday after a two-week hiatus and clarified the controversial legal status of the detainees.

The White House declared that the Geneva Convention applies to Taliban fighters captured in the Afghanistan phase of the war on terrorism but not to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida followers.

Meanwhile, a new group of 28 prisoners captured in Afghanistan arrived by air Thursday at "Camp X-Ray" in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, bringing the total number of detainees there to 186.

Six of the detainees were transported on stretchers aboard the C-141 cargo flight that left Kandahar, Afghanistan, Wednesday for the 25-hour flight.

The United States has been strongly criticized abroad, including by key allies, for alleged mistreatment of Taliban and al-Qaida detainees and for their ambiguous legal status.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Thursday the US clarification would not change the detainees' material life on a day-to-day basis.

"They will continue to be treated well because that's what the United States does," he said.

However, neither Taliban nor al-Qaida detainees are to get prisoner of war (POW) status, which would notably grant them the right to refuse to give more than name, rank and serial number when interrogated.

Fleischer said the Taliban were ineligible for POW status under the Convention because they had not effectively distinguished themselves from the civilian population and had shunned "the laws and customs of war."

"Instead, they have knowingly adopted and provided support for the unlawful terrorist objectives of the al-Qaida," he said.

"Al-Qaida is an international terrorist group and cannot be considered a state party to the Geneva Convention. Its members, therefore, are not covered," said the spokesperson.

An Army spokesperson said earlier Thursday that once the prisoners landed in Cuba they would immediately be questioned as to their identities before being escorted to open-air, maximum-security cells for an indefinite period of time.

The prisoners, who are shaved and shorn for health reasons, come from 25 countries, said Gen. Michael Lehnert.

But "at the request of many nations," Lehnert said, those countries of origin have not been made public—though Yemen is among a group of nations that has sent investigators to Cuba to examine the conditions of prisoners held there.

France, Britain, Belgium and Saudi Arabia also reportedly have nationals in US custody at Guantanamo Bay in southeastern Cuba. **AFP**

Bush shuns call to sever ties with Arafat

WASHINGTON—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Thursday won a fresh condemnation of Palestinian attacks from President George W. Bush but failed to convince him to sever ties with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

In a joint Oval Office appearance with Sharon, Bush repeatedly shrugged off questions about Sharon's call to "boycott" Arafat, insisting that his demands that the Palestinian leader does more to battle terrorism "can't be more clear."

"I assured the prime minister that we would continue to keep pressure on Mr. Arafat to convince him that he must take serious, concrete, real steps to reduce terrorist activities in the Middle East," said the president.

Sharon, making his fourth visit here since Bush took office a year ago, declared Arafat "an obstacle to peace" and called for more pressure to be brought to bear to yield an "alternative" Palestinian Authority leadership.

"Arafat has chosen a strategy of terror and formed a coalition of terror. Therefore, we believe that pressure should be put upon Arafat in order, it may be I hope, to have an alternative leadership in the future," said Sharon.

Under fire for what critics abroad view as a skewed Middle East policy—Arafat has never been invited to the White House—Bush renewed support for the eventual creation of a Palestinian state and said he was "deeply concerned about the plight of the average Palestinian."

Bush noted that his fiscal year 2003 budget includes $300 million, meant to go through non-governmental organizations, "to help Palestinians be able to realize a better life."

"I worry about stories and pictures I see of people going hungry, and children not being educated, and deep concerns etched on the faces of moms and dads who happen to be Palestinian," said the president.

While the US leader rebuffed Sharon's push to seek a different interlocutor from the Palestinian Authority, Bush also made clear that he felt betrayed when Israeli forces stopped a ship laden with arms apparently bound for Palestinian militants shortly after Arafat pledged to combat terrorism. **AFP**

Passenger tries to enter cockpit, is hit with ax

BUENOS AIRES—An apparently drunken, unarmed Uruguayan passenger tried to force his way into the locked cockpit of a United Airlines flight from Miami to Argentina on Thursday before pilots hit him with an ax and tied him up.

The man kicked down one panel of the cockpit door demanding to see the captain and got part of his body in before being overpowered by the crew and passengers. The incident alarmed other passengers and may raise new concerns about safety after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

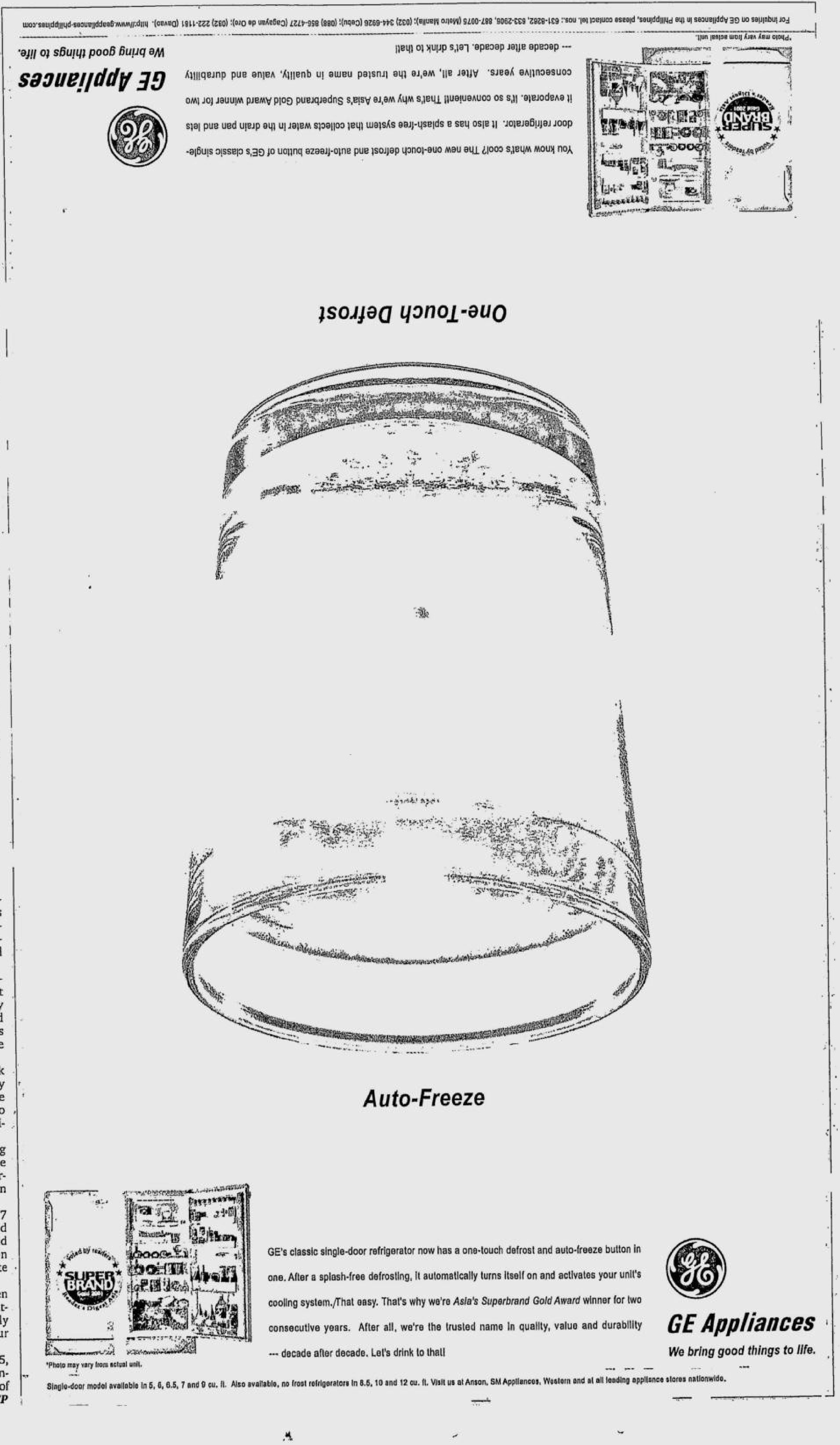
The 28-year-old man, said to have drunk whiskey before the flight, was subdued by crew and passengers like suspected "shoe bomber" Richard Reid, who allegedly tried to ignite explosives in his footwear on an American Airlines flight in December.

United Airlines said metal bars reinforcing cockpit doors since September prevented the man, named as Pablo Moreira, from endangering the flight. The airline's Chair Jack Creighton commended the crew's "quick action."

Moreira was arrested when the Boeing 777 with 142 passengers and 15 crew landed safely in Buenos Aires. Argentine officials said he would be flown back to Miami later on Thursday to be questioned by a Florida state prosecutor.

Cockpit doors on big US jetliners have been reinforced with bars since the September attacks, when suspected hijackers apparently gained entrance to the flight decks of four planes, two of them United jets.

A passenger on United Airlines Flight 855, Jan Boyer, told CNN that Moreira had managed to break down part of the lower half of the door by "kicking in a kung fu style." **AFP**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Irish bank has no clue on how $750-million fraud was hatched

DUBLIN—Allied Irish Banks on Thursday faced mounting criticism of management and market talk of a takeover but could give no fresh clue on how a suspected $750-million fraud was hatched at its US unit.

Emerging from a crisis board meeting, Chief Executive Michael Buckley could only express his regret security controls failed and vowed to get to the root of a scandal that pushed AIB shares down 23 percent on Wednesday in markets shaken by the collapse of US energy giant Enron Corp.

Meanwhile John Rusnak, the trader at the center of the scandal, through his lawyer said he was talking to federal authorities in Baltimore and denied stealing.

Heads had been expected to roll at AIB's US-based Allfirst Financial Inc. unit where the fraud occurred.

AIB Chair Lochlann Quinn said the bank would seek a comprehensive investigation before casting blame.

"I want all of the facts, not some of them," a stony-faced Quinn said in the lobby of AIB's headquarters in Dublin's leafy Ballsbridge district.

One market source said at the very least, someone of the stature of Allfirst Chief Executive Susan Keating or the US unit's chair Frank Bramble would be axed.

"Where it goes after that, I don't know," the source said.

Buckley said an initial security measure would be to centralize all market risk within the group's Dublin headquarters and ensure only sales teams operated in other locations.

The move came as questions arose over the degree to which AIB monitored trading at Baltimore-based Allfirst.

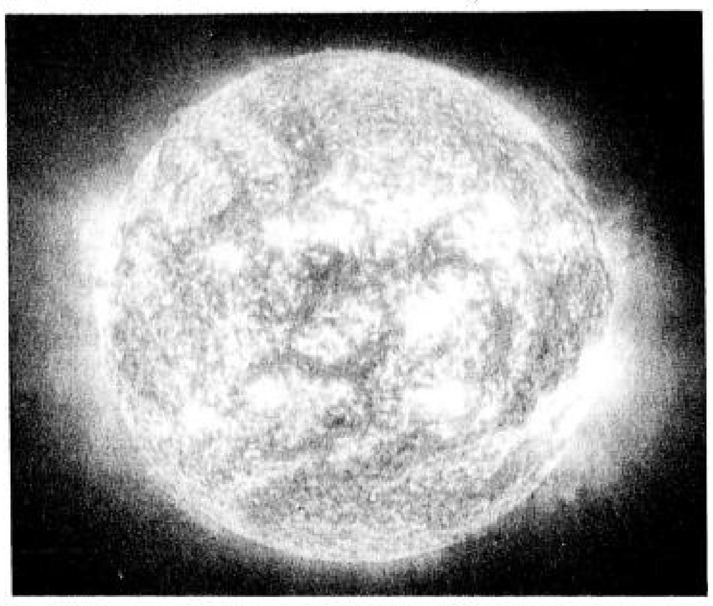
The Irish bank said its report into the fraud would be completed within 30 days and an "eminent person" would be appointed to oversee the review.

"There's no doubt that John Rusnak was involved in fraudulent activities, whether or not he personally benefited," Buckley said.

Allied Irish has said Rusnak, a middle-ranking dealer known as a family man and a pillar of his community, tried to disguise huge dollar/yen foreign exchange losses with fictitious trades.

The rout of AIB's shares on Wednesday wiped some $2.4 billion from its market value, pushing it into second place among Irish companies, behind rival Bank of Ireland.

Allied's shares rebounded and closed up 3.52 percent to 11.75 euros in Dublin on speculation it could be a takeover target and as Deutsche Bank upgraded the stock. *Reuters*



LUCKY OLD SUN REUTERS

This image of the sun taken by Nasa's Soho Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope was released Feb. 7. The telescope is able to image the solar transition region and inner corona in four selected bandpasses in the extreme ultraviolet wavelength.

N. Korea to US: Do you want talks or hostile ties?

UNITED NATIONS—North Korea's UN ambassador says the United States must decide whether it wants dialogue or hostile relations with his country, which US President George W. Bush calls part of an "axis of evil."

"Nice word will be answered by nice word," Ambassador Pak Gil Yon said in an interview with The Associated Press.

But if the United States continues to make "very, very hostile policy-making statements" and chooses "military options . . . then our armed forces and our people would have no other choice to react on the same basis," he said.

In his State of the Union speech last week, Bush said North Korea was part of an "axis of evil" along with Iran and Iraq. He accused the countries of supporting terrorism and seeking weapons of mass destruction and warned they would face consequences.

Pak repeated North Korea's official response, in which the foreign ministry said Bush's statement was "little short of declaring a war" and accused the United States of "throwing away even the mask of 'dialogue' and 'negotiations.'"

Since the speech, the Bush administration has reaffirmed its willingness to resume negotiations on security issues with North Korea at any time and any place. After a policy review, Bush offered to restart the talks last June, but North Korea has not replied.

Bush suggested last Friday that as a goodwill gesture, North Korea should pull back some of the conventional forces massed near the border with South Korea. Pak declined to comment on that request.

Asked whether North Korea is interested in resuming any kind of dialogue with the United States, Pak said, "We are always looking forward to solution of the issues through negotiations and talks, but such negotiations should be (on) equal basis without any preconditions."

He said that has not changed since Bush's speech. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

FMD on top of bird flu

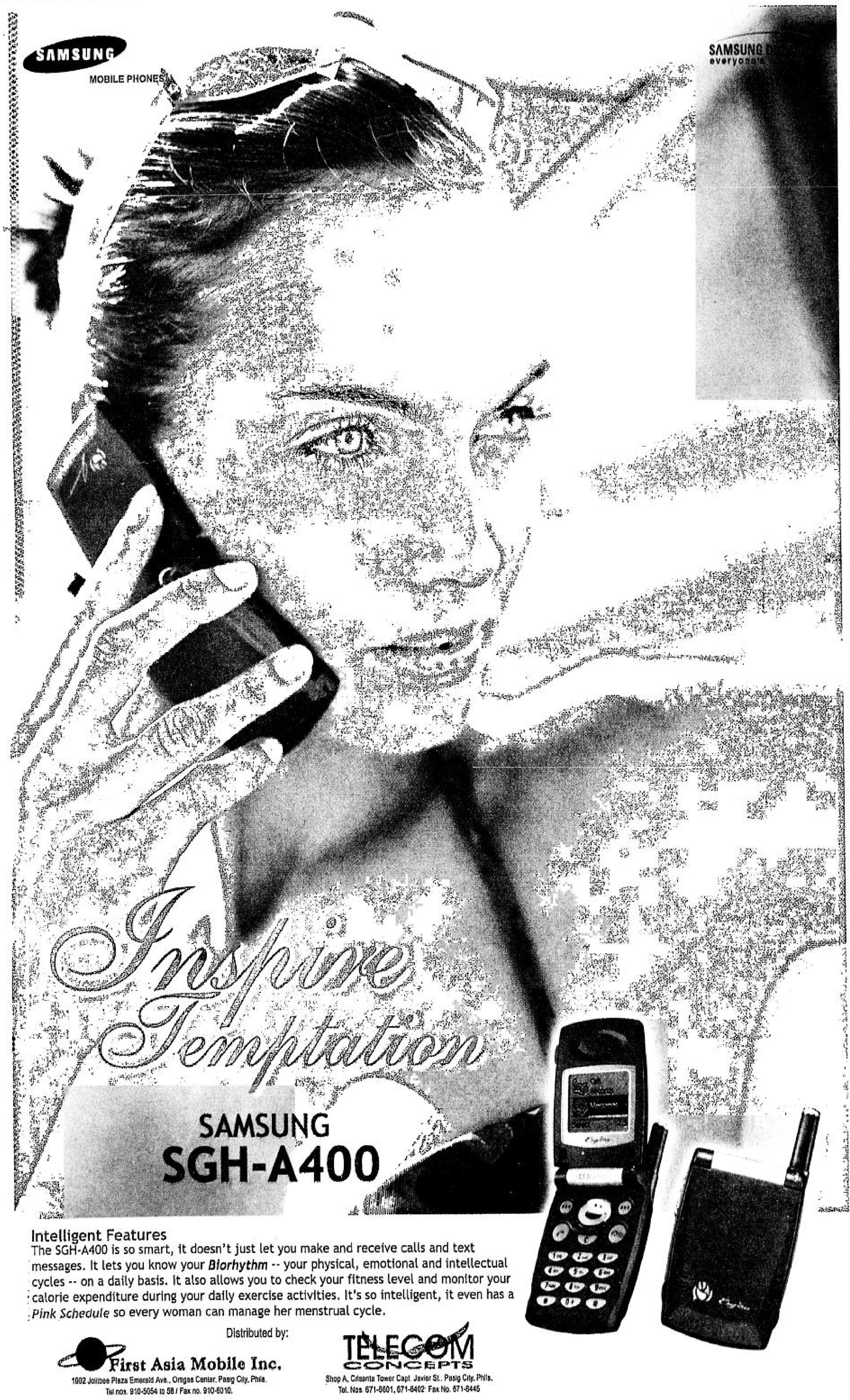
HONG KONG—Reports of the deaths of an unusually large number of pigs from foot-and-mouth disease fanned fears Friday of yet another livestock epidemic at a time when health authorities are still coping with an outbreak of avian flu. Hong Kong Pig Farm Association chair Wong Kwong-wing said more than 10,000 pigs had died of the foot-and-mouth disease since January, double the number that died of the illness last year. The foot-and-mouth deaths come amid an outbreak of bird flu that prompted health officials to order the destruction of 186,000 chickens this week. Poultry markets were closed Friday for a thorough cleaning and at least two dozen farms remained quarantined. *AP*

$10 each for killing pol

PHNOM PENH—Five Cambodians were paid $10 each for killing an opposition party candidate in last week's local elections, court officials said on Thursday. Seven people were convicted and jailed in connection with the killing of Sam Raisy Party candidate Sam Sophea, who was attacked on Nov. 6 and died the next day of his wounds, the officials said. Thach Theoun, a Sam Rainsy Party member, received a five-year sentence for complicity in the killing. A former Sam Rainsy Party deputy district chief, Abdul Karim, was sentenced to 15 years in absentia for organizing the crime, the officials said. *Reuters*

Child abuse in Japan

TOKYO—The number of children who died from abuse in Japan rose in 2001 from the previous year, a National Police Agency spokesperson said Friday. Sixty-one abused children died last year, up 17, or 38.6 percent, from 2000, the NPA spokesperson said. That followed 44 deaths in 2000 and 45 deaths in 1999, when the NPA began collecting data, he said on condition of anonymity. He didn't offer a reason for the increase. Analysts blame the rising trend on the country's protracted economic slump, busier parents and a disintegration of traditional family and community bonds. *AP*



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Enron ex-CEO says all was well, accepts no blame

WASHINGTON—Under harsh questioning before Congress, former Enron Corp. Chief Executive Jeffrey Skilling on Thursday shouldered no blame for the bankrupt energy trader's collapse and said he had no reason to believe it was in financial trouble when he left last August.

Grilled by a congressional panel probing off-the-books partnerships and questionable accounting at what was once America's seventh-largest company, Skilling said he was "devastated by and apologetic about what Enron has come to represent."

But he icily deflected criticism from lawmakers of his role, saying he was unaware of problems at Enron when he resigned as CEO on Aug. 14, citing personal reasons.

On Dec. 2, Enron filed the largest bankruptcy in US history, wiping out thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in equity held by employees and other investors.

Rep. James Greenwood, the Pennsylvania Republican who chairs the House Energy and Commerce oversight and investigations subcommittee, was incredulous.

"Mr. Skilling, a massive earthquake struck Enron right after your departure. People in far inferior positions to you could see cracks in the walls, feel the tremors, feel the windows rattling. And you want us to believe that you sat there in your office and had no clue that this place was about to collapse?" Greenwood asked.

Skilling replied: "On the day I left . . . I believed the company was in strong financial condition.

"I cannot for the life of me understand how we could go from where I thought the company was to bankruptcy in such a short period of time. It's astounding." • *Reuters*

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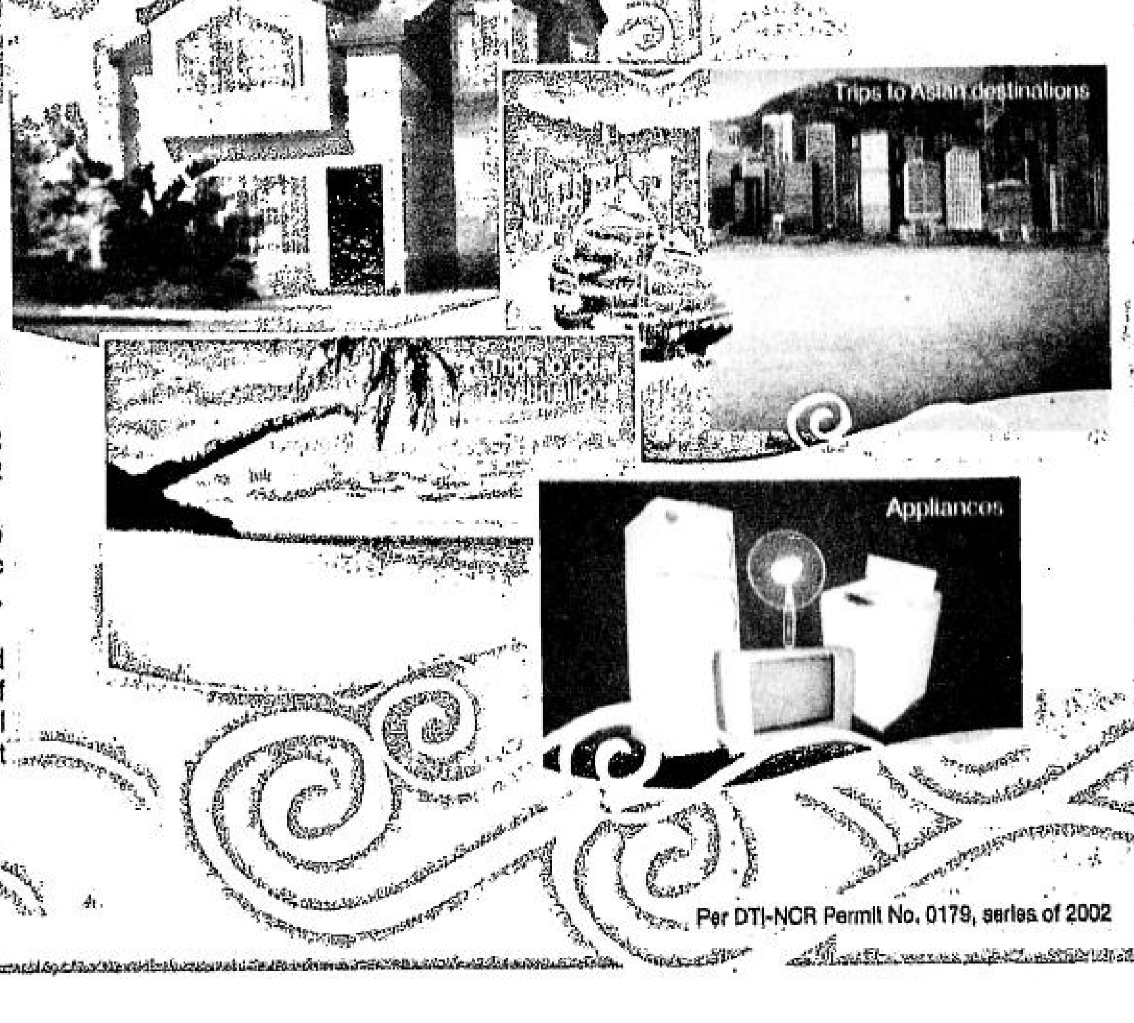

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Local execs own fish pens, cages

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Only 289 people, including local officials of Bolinao, Pangasinan, own the hundreds of fish pens and cages hit by a massive fish kill last week, it was learned here on Friday.

Information gathered from the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission (LGCAMC) confirmed reports that only a few people are making money from the aquaculture industry in the town.

LGCAMC records showed that Mayor Jesus Celeste, Vice Mayor Dempsey Abogado, at least two councilors and employees of the local government own fish pens and cages.

The list showed there are 173 fish pens and 448 cages in Bolinao, but an LGCAMC insider said a physical count of the structures showed that 600 fish pens and 467 cages exist in the town.

Under Bolinao's fishery ordinance, the establishment of aquaculture structures is allowed only in designated areas in seven villages. These are in the waters off Barangays Pilar, Salud, Luciente I, Luciente II, Luna, Catungi and Culang.

The ordinance also specifies the allowable size of fish structures and the distance between them.

Applicants for construction of fish structures and for operation of any aquaculture activities in the municipal waters must be local residents or accredited people's organizations.

Other groups are also allowed to apply as long as 60 percent of their members are from Bolinao.

But the fishery ordinance does not specify the number of fish structures that a person or an organization can own.

The LGCAMC list showed that many operators own 10 structures or more.

Florante Garcia, Bolinao coastal resource management officer, said many applicants from other provinces used their relatives' names in Bolinao when they applied for a permit from the local government to build fish pens and cages.

In the list of owners given to the INQUIRER by the LGCAMC, Celeste is listed as the owner of three fish pens while his wife Noemi owns five fish cages.

Abogado has two fish pens and a fish cage while his son and mother also own fish structures.

Councilor Edmund Quevada has seven fish pens and two fish cages while Councilor Jasmin Camba has one cage.

It could not be determined, however, if the other councilors have structures under the names of their family members or relatives.

Lawyer Virgilio Solis Jr., the provincial administrator, was listed as having 12 fish cages.

But Solis said he no longer operates or manages them because of "the heavy workload at the provincial government."

He said his relatives are now operating the pens.

Four operators have 10 fish cages each. They are Mervin Quevada, Rosendo Callado, Dante Eugenio and Rodolfo Perez. Other operators with six to nine fish cages and pens are Romeo Caampued, nine cages; Jerry Bermudez, eight; and Elias Quisay and Livy Quevada, six each.

Most operators have five structures each, although some residents said the structures are listed under their relatives' names.

"The aquaculture industry is (a) family (industry)," a resident said.

In a town that prides itself of not having a Chinese resident, among the listed owners of fish cages are people with Chinese-sounding names such as Michael Ju Aka, Qui Wen Jiang, Cindy Chua and William Ang.

WHILE these women from Isabela, Basilan, are on their way to their mosque to pray, other Isabelans join an anti-US intervention rally here. DENNIS SABANGAN

US soldiers to attend rights seminars

ZAMBOANGA CITY—American soldiers would have to undergo human rights seminars, in addition to cultural sensitivity seminars, before the start of the Balikatan exercises, a ranking military official said.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, said the human rights seminars would be in response to apprehensions aired by militant groups that the arrival of the US forces would trigger an increase in the number of human rights violations in Mindanao.

"We want to make them sensitive to our human rights laws," Servando said.

The Public Attorney's Office in Basilan and Zamboanga said human rights complaint centers have been established.

Deputy public attorney Marianthe P.M. Zuraek said the centers would cater to complaints of rights violations during the war games.

"We will assist possible victims in preparing affidavits and we will also give legal advice," Zuraek said.

During yet another seminar, the Americans would be taught about the customs and traditions of people living in areas where the war games will be held.

"Because we would like the Americans to be aware of our local culture," Servando said.

In Davao City, a city councilor said the Macapagal administration should disclose the contents of the terms of reference and the operational plan of the Balikatan exercises, "including the mission, situation, objectives, duration, nature of logistics and the specific role of the US troops in the exercises."

"Surely, we have not forgotten the excesses committed in the course of the stay of the US military bases in the country," she said.

She said disclosing the contents of the TOR and other documents related to the Balikatan could dispel fears that America is determined to re-establish and strengthen its military and political presence in the Asia-Pacific with Mindanao playing a significant role to the US interest.

Silvestre Bello, the government's chief negotiator with the National Democratic Front said communist rebels might use the Balikatan exercises as an excuse for the collapse of the peace talks.

Bello said during the previous talks, the NDF used the Visiting Forces Agreement to withdraw from the peace negotiations.

He said the government peace panel has anticipated this but that they have already formulated a set of guidelines for the government to undertake.

The guidelines state the alternative measures for the government to answer the "bad, good, worse, and best scenarios." ***Julie Alipala, Joel Escovilla and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mystery over US plane shooting ignites conflicts

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Tribes in Cordillera, where an American military cargo plane was reportedly shot at last week, feared that they would soon be blamed for the supposed incident, a barangay captain from Mt. Province said on Thursday.

The MC-130 plane was hit twice at about 7 p.m. on Feb. 1, while it flew 2,000 feet above ground at a speed of 220 knots.

To date, neither the United States military commander detailed in Zamboanga nor the Armed Forces of the Philippines has explained why the plane's flight plan included the low spin through Kalinga.

Betwagan barangay captain, Mathew Fanco of Sadanga town, said he and fellow tribesmen from the border villages bisecting Mt. Province and Kalinga did not even know about the attack on the plane.

But he claimed that the mystery surrounding the US plane's supposed shooting had been used as a tool by unnamed instigators to crack down on supposed rebel lairs in their villages.

Worse, the mystery had affected already tense tribal relationships there, Fanco said.

The Betwagan official said he traveled all the way from Sadanga on Wednesday to seek out the INQUIRER because of its banner photograph of a huge cargo plane that was published on Feb. 2.

"That was the newspaper (edition) that advised us about a plane shooting. I do not know myself if it happened because we usually see planes flying that low. But even if the planes come (tribesmen) do not necessarily shoot," he said in Ilocano.

But he said what bothered the villages most about the US plane mystery was that the military had blamed communist rebels for the attack.

Fanco said villages have always feared the day when military officials would swoop down on them for "hiding the rebels."

He said unknown culprits have capitalized on the fears and have started blaming tribesmen, "who they identify to the military intelligence as members of the New People's Army."

"I was told that military intelligence (officials) have been screening barangays bordering Kalinga and Mt. Province because they think we are the NPA strongholds. But we are not, and they may set off a tribal conflict because one tribe, when pressured, will blame other tribes for the shooting," Fanco said in Ilocano.

In fact, conflicts already plague this corridor of the Cordillera. Fanco referred to an ongoing tribal problem between his tribe, and the cross-border village of Butbut. The same tribes have similar border disputes with Kalinga. Elders and government officials are negotiating a settlement in these areas.

The Betwagan official said the military should instead check armed members of the militia Cordillera People's Liberation Army who operate near these border towns.

Busy police

But the Cordillera police intelligence unit had been busy mapping out Kalinga's marijuana plantation sites, suspecting that plantation guards or neighboring Kalinga tribesmen could have fired at the US plane.

Kalinga is part of a "triangle" of provinces, which is notorious for concealing vast hectares of illegal marijuana fields beneath lush, virgin forest cover, said a source from the Cordillera police at Camp Dangwa, Benguet.

"Low-level flying in those areas are frowned upon. Even the military is careful about sinking deep into the mountains because people there do not always welcome strangers, what more mysterious aircraft," the police source said in Filipino. "Many times, people just shoot."

In fact, police officers detailed to fight insurgents in the Cordillera have also shot at mysterious aircraft.

"Years ago, an aircraft had been spotted flying over a rebel-influenced area. The policemen assigned there realized that rebel sightings occurred whenever the aircraft approached, suggesting to them that the plane was delivering rebel supplies. So one time, the police shot at the aircraft. Minutes later, they received instructions to 'hold fire' because the plane was 'friendly.' They just laughed," said SPO2 Viyo Hidalgo, spokesperson of the Baguio City police.

Maliksi denies 'no union' order

ROSARIO, Cavite—Gov. Ireneo Maliksi has denied allegations by factory workers that he had ordered the implementation of a "no union, no strike" policy inside Cavite's Export Processing Zone.

Referring to charges made by employees affiliated with the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW) recently, Maliksi objected that it is his administration's policy to break company unions.

"I firmly believe that it is the constitutional right of the workers to organize into unions to protect themselves from any abuses of their employers," the governor said.

The workers, however, did not believe Maliksi's denial.

Emmanuel Asuncion, a worker and SCW chair, told the INQUIRER last week that he learned the order to bust unions from the governor's men tasked by his office to run after union members and officers, particularly of Tokumi Electronics Philippines Inc. (TEPI).

TEPI is a Japanese-owned company where an ongoing industrial conflict exists.

Asuncion revealed that recently a team led by a certain Oscar "Ian" Yaun, who was allegedly dispatched from the Office of the Governor, made a "house-to-house visitation" on the members and officers of the union.

Yaun invoked the name of Maliksi and threatened the unionists that they would surely lose their jobs if they did not renounce their membership to their Union.

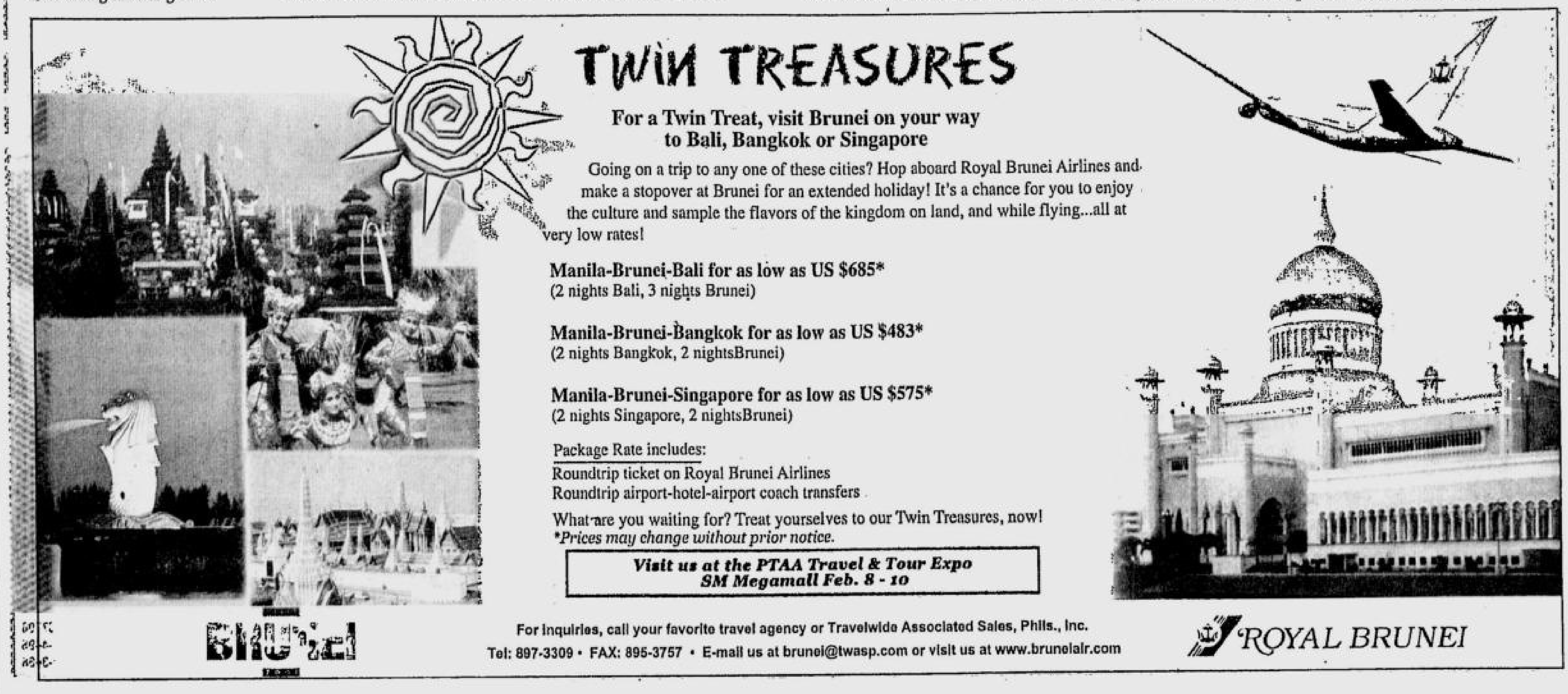
The workers said the company management had sought the support of the provincial government after a series of its unfair labor practices and union-busting attempts failed to break the union.

The latest outcome was the suspension of about 200 union members last year.

The governor told the INQUIRER that he had nothing to do with any group threatening union members of dismissal if they do not leave their organizations.

He said he also did not help any company management, like TEPI, who fired some 200 union members last year.

He, however, acknowledged persuading management and workers of industrial establishments to create "built-in mechanisms" inside their companies, like the Labor and Management Council which will immediately settle conflicts that may arise between management and workers to prevent problems from getting out of proportion. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



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ROYAL BRUNEI

Consulate's appeal on Chinese fishers denied

By Ruelle Albert D. Castro
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Members of the provincial panel prosecuting the case against the 95 arrested Chinese fishermen here turned down an appeal of the People's Republic of China consulate for leniency in trying the violation of its citizens.

Authorities described the move as the first blow against the Chinese government in bargaining for its citizens' release.

Chinese Consul General Zhu Tao Ying, Political Section chief Wei He and 3rd Secretary Tian Xue Jun met Wednesday night with the Provincial Committee on Illegal Entrants (PCIE) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) staff.

The Chinese consulate has been occasionally visiting the province to negotiate for the release of Chinese fishermen caught poaching in Philippine waters on several occasions.

The Chinese fishermen's intrusion in Philippine waters has become a regular occurrence in the province, as the government intensified its drive against illegal fishing.

The most recent was the apprehension of the 95 illegal Chinese fishermen on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 in Tubbataha Reef.

PCSD executive director Joselito Alisuag, in an interview after the meeting, reported their rejection of the consulate's appeal on the ground that the province had enough of such incidents and that they are not going to be soft, this time, in prosecuting this group of Chinese.

"We told them that we are not in the mood for leniency because we had been lenient before," he said.

Some agreements

The two parties, however, agreed to exclude in the case minors who were among those apprehended.

Alisuag said six minors were among those apprehended but they will only be released upon the order of the proper court.

The consulate maintained that the fishermen acted on their own when they entered the Tubbataha Reef but it still appealed for leniency.

Alisuag's group denied the appeal and maintained that the issue is not merely a provincial matter but an international one since what the Chinese intruded was a United Nations-declared World Heritage Site.

Alisuag further added that they are expecting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to join in prosecuting the intruders.

He also said that all sentiments are into nailing a guilty verdict for these Chinese.

The PCSD official also said no negotiation could help the Chinese gain liberty.

Even the Chinese Chamber of Commerce here has already committed not to assist these and future apprehended Chinese poachers anymore.

Released

Meantime, nine of the 15 (not 13 as earlier reported) live *mameng* fish confiscated from the 95 arrested Chinese fishermen here were returned to the sea Tuesday following a court decision for their release.

Mameng is a rare and protected fish.

Elements of the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the nongovernment Environment Legal Action Center (Elac) went out to the sea a few kilometers off the city bay, bringing with them the nine fishes and released them in a protected reef.

The people present greeted the release with applause.

Only nine of the 15 fishes were released after it was assessed that these could fend for themselves in the sea despite their present condition.

All fishes bore wounds in their bodies, which could kill them and in fact, had already caused the death of one.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources personnel inspected them before the release.

Four were brought to the BFAR inland ranching fish cages for recovery before they will be released.

Another was taken for testing for cyanide trace for court use against the arrested Chinese fishermen.

Elac staff member John Galit expressed hope for the survival of the released fishes in their condition.

He, however, said the fishes have a better chance of survival compared to those brought to BFAR.

The *mameng* fish is used to being mobile, thus, it needs a bigger cage for recovery.

The biggest of the released fishes measure about three feet and weigh about 10 kilos. The others average 1½ feet long.

8 mining firms rush to get approval of new explorations in Davao

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—At least eight mining firms in the province are rushing to get the endorsements of local officials and indigenous peoples for their proposed explorations of precious metals in Barangays Macambol and Cabuaya here.

The provincial environment office here said the eight mining companies were among the 20 firms, which had earlier applied to explore mineral deposits in Davao Oriental.

The proposed mineral exploration sites involve some 18,000 hectares of ancestral lands belonging to the Mandaya tribe in the villages.

Under the law, mining firms are required, among others, to secure the approval of residents of the proposed mining areas before they could operate.

To get favorable endorsement, some of the mining firms have allegedly promised bright prospects for the affected villages.

Some of these are the hiring of tribesmen in about 1,500 positions once the mining operations start.

Some mining firms also offered one percent of their annual gross income to the host barangays.

Endorsed

The INQUIRER learned that the firms, which have already secured various endorsements, were the Blue Ridge Mining Corp., St. Patrick Mining and Development Corp., Hopewell Mining and Development Corp., P.L. Goodman Mining and Development Corp., Mt. Peak Mining and Development Corp., Galactica Mining and Development Corp., Oregon Mining and Development Corp., and Loyalty Mining and Development Corp.

Marilyn Yu-Mon, provincial head of the National Commission for the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), told the INQUIRER that the mining firms recently conducted a series of consultations among the affected Mandaya *lumads*.

Yu-Mon said it appears that the result was "very favorable."

"The Mandaya *lumads* are pushing for the project because it will uplift the quality of their lives. Besides, the proposed mining sites are not agricultural lands, it is suited only for mining activities," she said.

Some residents, however, said they were opposing the proposed mining explorations, as these would greatly affect the ecological balance of the said villages.

They said it would also lead to the massive displacement of the already impoverished Mandaya *lumads*.

Church support

The Church-based Interfaith Movement for Peace, Empowerment and Development (IMPED) is supporting the opposition.

Fr. Medardo Salomia, IMPED chair, said they would organize a protest actions against the proposed explorations.

He said his group is also urging environment secretary Heherson Alvarez to reject the mining firms' applications.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Council, the administrative body that regulates environmental projects in the province, said it had yet to act on the mining firms' request for favorable recommendations.

Gilbert Pajo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the companies failed to present the details of their projects to the council.

Mining permits allow large-scale miners to extract minerals for 25 years, while small-scale miners are given permit for two years but which are renewable for another two years.

The Davao Union Cement Corp. is the lone company, which has been granted permit by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to extract silica mineral in Barangay Dawan here.

Davao Union earlier urged the DENR to approve its proposal to expand the volume of silica it was mining from the area, but the bid was turned down after residents launched a series of protests.

Marinduque river gets P2.8M for rehabilitation

SAN PABLO CITY—The government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), has obtained P2.8 million from the Marcopper Mining Corp.'s (MMC) deposited Mine Waste and Tailings Free Reserve Fund to rehabilitate the polluted Marinduque bay and river.

The DENR used the amount to purchase quick lime to reduce the acidity of the water before it is discharged to the local river system for its gradual rehabilitation, said a statement furnished the INQUIRER by the DENR Southern Tagalog office.

The DENR-IV, through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), handled the purchase and delivery of the lime after the MGB turned over the amount to it pursuant to a memorandum dated Dec. 16, 2001, according to the statement sent by DENR-IV public affairs officer Lourdez Bucay.

Former Marinduque Penro Benito Albrando, who initiated the lime acquisition, said 80 tons of lime have already been delivered at the site.

Bucay noted that DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez has earlier created the Marcopper Mining Corporation Remedial Works and Care, Maintenance Task Force to address MMC's environmental concerns.

The task force is expected to monitor the remedial works on the Tapian Pit Elevation 310 Tunnel and Maguila-guila Siltation Dam.

It is also charged with the care and maintenance program for the upper and lower Makulapnit Dam and Bol Dam to be prepared by MMC/Placer Dome Inc./Placer Dome Technical Services.

Engineer Gavino Belleza headed the task force while Albrando was tasked with monitoring the issues and concerns arising from the currently suspended mining operation of the company.

Catholic Church leader Monsignor Senen Malapad of Marinduque told the INQUIRER recently that "the demand of the people in Marinduque is not solely confined to the issue of financial compensation. What the people needs is justice."

Placer Dome, a Canadian-based mining company, could reportedly be made to pay up to $13 million based on early estimates of the amount needed to bring back the river and the bay to life. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas
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Presidential proclamations igniting unrest in Bohol

By Chito A. Fuentes
Tagbilaran City

THE WORLD famous Chocolate Hills, along with the lesser-known Rajah Sikatuna National Park and the Wahig-Inabanga River, attract thousands of tourists yearly for their rare beauty and strong sensory appeal.

But the trio of presidential proclamations (PPs) that sought to protect these areas ironically became the lever that agitated farmers to rise against the law, attracting peasants and farmers to become cadres of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

PP 129, enacted in July 1987, placed seven towns—Garcia-Hernandez, Valencia, Dimiao, Bilar, Batuan, Sierra-Bullones and Carmen—under the Raja Sikatuna National Park (RSNP).

On Sept. 26, 1994, then President Fidel Ramos signed PP 468 establishing the Wahig-Inabanga River Wastershed Forest Reserve. It covered the towns of Pilar, Candijay, Alicia, Duero, Sierra-Bullones, Carmen, Dagohoy, Danao, Inabanga, Buenavista and Getafe.

PP 1037, also issued by Ramos, established the 1,776 Chocolate Hills as "a natural monument." Issued on July 1, 1997, it sought to "protect and maintain" the mounds in the towns of Carmen, Batuan, Sagbayan, Bilar, Valencia and Sierra-Bullones.

Some groups, however, believed there was more to the three proclamations than just environmental protection.

The Central Visayas Farmers Development Center (Fardec) claimed that the RSNP Project was created not to protect the forest zone but as "part of a plan to boost the tourist industry (and) to entice more investors (into Bohol)."

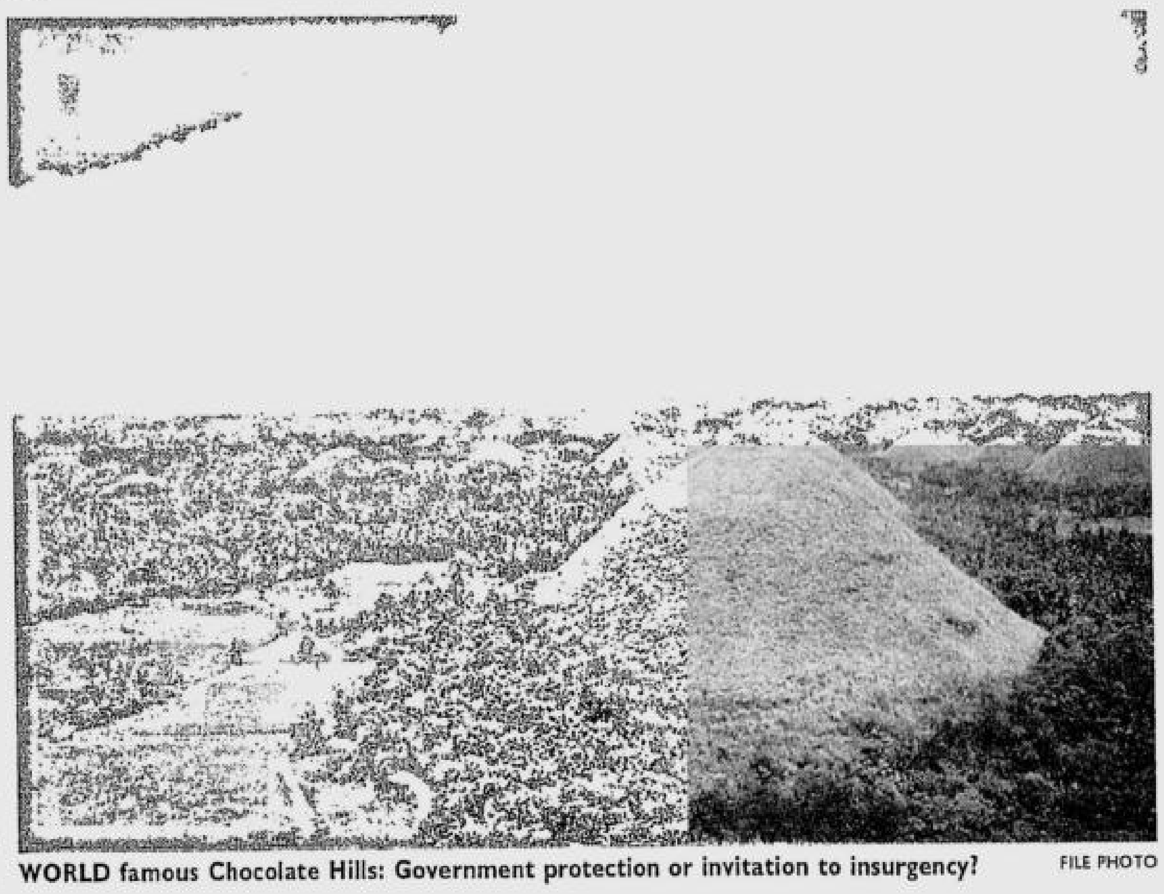
Fardec described the RSNP as Bohol's "best-kept secret" as the area is home to the last remaining molave forest in Bohol, where numerous other hardword tree species still exist. It is also home to several endangered wildlife species.

PP 468, on the other hand, was widely opposed when residents realized that a huge Wahig-Inabanga weir would be built, "taking out the abundant water supply of water from the Wahig River for the Cebu-Bohol Water Deal project," Fardec said.

Motives

Fardec said "sugarcoated promises" were offered for the Boholanons and Cebuanos to gain their support and thwart expected protests from them.

But "it should be made known that it is not the Cebuanos who need this water from Boholanos but the foreign investors and big local capitalists who will be investing at the MEPZ (Mactan Export Processing Zone) . . . and those already priviledged few who can afford the luxury of playing golf," it said.



WORLD famous Chocolate Hills: Government protection or invitation to insurgency? FILE PHOTO

As for PP 1037, an investigative mission conducted by an environmentalist group in October 1997 claimed that creating the Chocolate Hills protective zone was "but a subtle scheme of grabbing the land not only from the tenant-tillers but from the small landowners as well."

The zone, it said, would cater to "real estate and tourism-related development projects of the big landlords and business groups, and foreign capitalists eyeing the vast resources of the province."

For farmers who for decades had tilled the land around the Chocolate Hills area, losing their fields as a result of PP 1037 breed unrest.

As insurgency-related activities began to become more pronounced in Bohol between 1998 and 1999, then President Joseph Estrada adopted a new tack to address the renewed rebellion in the countryside. On June 21, 1999, Estrada issued Executive Order No. 115 that called for local peace negotiation between the communist rebels and the government.

Under EO 115, the peace efforts focused on "addressing directly the specific issues and/or concerns on the ground, which are considered the causes of the insurgency and/or creating situations of 'unpeace' in particular areas."

Estrada subsequently identified Bohol, along with Bicol in Luzon and Davao in Mindanao, as pilot area for the local peace initiatives.

Bohol officials led by then Gov. Rene Relampagos hailed EO 115, hoping that local issues and concerns that created "situations of unpeace" would be easier addressed.

Urgent changes

But less than a year after the order was issued, a special inter-agency committee created by Relampagos recommended that PPs 468 and 1037 must be amended if the provincial officials wanted to put a lid on the rising insurgency.

The committee, chaired by then Vice Gov. Edgar Chatto, proposed the removal from PP 468's scope the parcels of land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, project sites of the National Irrigation Administration, tree farm lots inside areas classified as alienable and disposable, and those claimed as ancestral domain.

It also sought the exclusion from the coverage of the Chocolate Hills area the towns of Bilar, Sierra-Bullones and Valencia, reducing to 1,269 the covered hills instead of the original 1,776.

Moreover, it asked for the deletion of the phrase "all public land and private land within, around and surrounding the Chocolate Hills" in Paragraph 6 of PP 1037.

The PPOC unanimously passed a resolution on Oct. 30, 2000 endorsing the committee's findings and asking then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles to act on its recommendations.

Among other points, the PPOC noted that the two PPs "have been used by the propaganda arm of the local communist movement" as among the "unfair and oppressive government policies."

But Cerilles, in a three-paragraph response received by Relampagos on Dec. 12, 2000, casually dismissed the PPOC resolution.

"Unless very compelling reasons are presented . . . recommending amendments to (PP 468) . . . we have no presently strong inclination to recommend to the President amendment to this proclamation," Cerilles said.

In one brief letter, the Estrada administration's much-ballyhooed local peace initiatives lost steam.

Fresh attempt

The present governor, Erico Aumentado, tried to revive the effort to amend the two PPs in a letter sent to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez in August last year.

Aumentado stressed that declaring the agricultural land in the Chocolate Hills and watershed areas as prohibited from farming activities continued to breed unrest. In fact, he said, "new rebel fronts are being established in the towns covered by the proclamations."

But there has been no response from Alvarez up to now.

It remains debatable if the amendments sought in the two PPs would put an end to the insurgency problem in Bohol. And yet, for its continued inaction, the national government cannot escape blame for giving the rebels enough issues to shore up their ranks.

A choice of heaven or hell

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

ONE OF the quotations for which the late President Manuel Quezon is best remembered was when he said, "I prefer a government run like hell by the Filipinos to one run like heaven by the Americans."

A lot of his countrymen must be thinking of this following the arrival of hundreds of US troopers who will "advise" our military and the possible employment of former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani as adviser for peace and order.

And, as there are also reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo is also asking former US ambassador Stephen Bosworth if he can be an adviser on foreign affairs, plus another US hot shot on business matters, will we soon see a Philippines being run like heaven?

* * *

IT is not only the national leadership that is collecting advisers to ensure a heavenly situation for its constituents.

In Negros Occidental, the hiring of "consultants" by the provincial government has also raised eyebrows, especially when it was found that some P2.4 million has been allocated to pay for their fees.

So far, two have been hired for the governor's office, and they do not include any of the five executive assistants who are already working there.

In Bacolod City, the problem is more at the bottom. A lot of casual workers have not been paid their salaries for several months now and they are hounding the mayor's office.

At first, Mayor Luzviminda Valdez disowned about 200 of them, claiming that she had never appointed them. But when the person being blamed for the situation came out and declared that the mayor had indeed authorized the hiring of the casual employees, she said she must have forgotten, or he had misinterpreted her.

Whatever, the casuals' woes are not the only worries City Hall has on its back. Creditors are also dunning it from all sides.

The Central Electric Cooperative claims that the city owes it P36 million in unpaid power bills. The Bacolod City Water District is trying to collect P28 million.

The Government Service Insurance System has suspended the loan privileges of city employees because of its claims of P19 million in unremitted premiums. The GSIS has done the same to employees of the provincial capitol, which reportedly failed to remit P54 million.

Both the city and province claim that they still want to reconcile their payment records before remitting the amounts.

* * *

BACOLOD'S angry and hungry casuals are getting impatient. Some of them have gone as far as revealing circumstances about their appointments, and the disclosures are healthy fodder for local media.

Aside from saying that some of them had been utilized by Valdez's group during the election campaign, with one or two executing affidavits on it, others exposed questionable SOPs (standard operating procedures) when interviewed by the media.

One bitterly complained about being made to see a certain "Pongpong" at the mayor's house first before the casuals could be appointed. Pongpong turned out to be Valdez's son, Alexis, himself a city employee and serving as her private secretary.

Up to this writing, lawyer and former mayor Amado Parreño Jr. and his family are still chafing over the non-payment by the city for their property that it had expropriated 30 years ago.

The Regional Trial Court had rendered a final and executory judgment, ordering the garnishment of city properties, but the sheriff was given what appeared to be a runaround. When he came back, he could no longer find the city's Toyota Revos or the Kia Prego vans, much less seize them.

After the issue had been tossed back and forth between the mayor's office and the city council, barricades suddenly appeared across the Circumferential Highway, which had been built on the Parreño property. Traffic jammed all over the city as big trucks, tankers and haulers could not pass through the highway.

Parreño has threatened to cite the officials for contempt, dismissing their efforts to cite laws and court orders to justify their stand..

Meanwhile, it's a standoff between the city and the GSIS, as it also is with the province. The local GSIS head, Jesusa Ruby Teruel, continues to stand pat on the suspension of loan privileges, while the city and province insist that they have to check the records for possible overpayment of premiums.

* * *

DESPITE ALL these, sources at City Hall say the chief executive is happily anticipating an award for being the "cleanest and greenest" highly urbanized city in the country.

The city officials' glee will probably be as overwhelming as the embarrassment and dismay of residents and journalists who have been complaining about the garbage piled up on the streets in the past few months.

Well, if the prize does go to the city, it could be that the Clean and Green judges saw something in it that the residents couldn't see.

Rain or shine? Ilonggo villagers rely on 'tubong-tubong'

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

IT RAINED that morning of Jan. 2, and Jorge Laredo, a security guard from Lambunao town, 48 kilometers from Iloilo City, said it would be raining in the first half of February.

Laredo, like many rural Ilonggos, rely on the traditional "*tubong-tubong*" to predict weather in this age of 24-hour weather forecast on cable TV and the World Wide Web.

The "*tubong-tubong*" works like this: Villagers assign the days of January to correspond with months of the year in predicting the amount of rainfall, cloud patterns and wind behavior year-round.

Jan. 1 and 13 are assigned to January; 2 and 12, February; 3 and 15, March; 4 and 16, April; 5 and 17, May; 6 and 18, June; 7 and 19, July; 8 and 20, August; 9 and 21, September; 10 and 22, October; 11 and 23, November; and 12 and 24, December.

If rain occurs in any of these dates, the villagers conclude that the corresponding month will be rainy. If winds occur, the month will be stormy, and if it is cloudy, there will be cloud formations on the assigned dates.

Laredo said the age-old method of forecasting is done without the use of sophisticated weather instruments. It is as easy as observing the heavens or putting a hand out of the window to check if it's raining, he said.

The knowledge is everyone's heritage in the rural areas, but the practices are so popular that these are even recorded by sociologists in case satellite dishes render them out of date.

Weather guides

Regardless of the "*tubong-tubong*," farmers expect rain on May 8, the Feast of San Isidro Labrador, and June 24, the Feast of St. John the Baptist. These days serve as guides to establish their dry seedbeds or sow their fields.

Farmers also assign a favorable time for harvesting and dividing their produce. Harvesting is usually done at the peak of high tide. The uncollected sheaves are left behind, a gesture of the farmer's social obligation to the poor.

It is common for the poor to be allowed to winnow the chaff and the straw where some filled and half-filled grains are left lying.

Dividing the produce is also done at the peak of high tide and starts at "*sikwayan*" (toward the chaff side) and ends at "*ulohan*" (toward the side of the filled grain) of the produce. This is based on the belief that the harvest is a grace from God that should be held sacred lest it will not last long.

However, this practice is dying with the advent of mechanical rice threshers, according to a study on the Bucari area, the 21 mountain villages in the towns of Alimodian and Leon, which was sponsored by the private group Kahublagan sang Panimalay.

Divining almanac

The more established year-round weather divining is found in the 124-year-old publication, the "*Almanaque Panayanhon* (Almanac of Panay)."

First published in 1877 by Mariano Perfecto, a Bicolano printer who helped Ilonggo literature to flourish, the almanac contains a calendar with birthdays of saints of the Catholic Church, astronomical data and other information.

The 2002 almanac predicts that it will be cloudy and windy on the last week of January and it will be a mix of sunny and rainy days in February.

The booklet has also tips on how to choose the best dates to start a career, build a house, move to a new house, plant crops and fish, buy and sell cattle, and travel.

The almanac does not advise couples to build a house on the fourth week of October, November and December because the head of "*bakunawa*" (dragon) faces the east while its tail is at the west. Building on those days results in having a lot of marital troubles, mainly due to infidelity.

Bakunawa is a mythical dragon that swallows the moon during lunar eclipse.

The best dates to move into a new house are Feb. 28, April 24, May 26, Aug. 13, Sept. 1, Sept. 11, Sept. 26, Nov. 6 and Dec. 3.

Milagros Perfecto Sanchez, who took over the publication from her late father, Mariano Perfecto, says the almanac is widely circulated in Western Visayas, Romblon and the Ilonggo-speaking provinces in Mindanao.

During the weekly market days in the towns of Iloilo, the almanacs sell like hotcakes because farmers use it, among other things, for naming their children after the saints or assigning dates to start buying or trading farm animals.

RAIN, rain, go away? No way, according to believers of "tubong-tubong." MA. DIOSA LABISTE

CODE-NGO set up $50-M fund from debt swaps

From page A1

Development (USAID) agreed to write off $25 million from the country's debt on the condition that the Philippine government put the same amount into a perpetual endowment fund to support local NGO projects.

The $25 million was placed in a bank account under the foundation for the Philippine Environment Inc., which was established to provide funds to NGO environmental projects. Funding for the projects was taken from the interest earnings of the endowment fund.

CODE-NGO initiated another debt swap in 1995. Songco said his group worked with Swiss NGOs to arrange a $25-million debt-for-development swap between Switzerland and the Philippines.

The Foundation for Sustainable Societies Inc. was then established to manage the endowment fund, the interest earnings of which are used to fund livelihood and "sustainable production" projects by NGOs in the country.

Songco explained that the P1.4 billion that CODE-NGO earned from the zero-coupon bonds constitutes a permanent endowment fund. Interest earnings from the fund estimated at P100 million yearly will be used to finance projects that seek to alleviate poverty.

Poverty-alleviation projects

The Peace Foundation, the entity created by CODE-NGO to administer the endowment, has identified Metro Manila, Cordillera and Bicol and the provinces of Samar and South Cotabato as initial recipients of its pro-poor projects.

Marietta Paragas, CODE-NGO board director, said CODE-NGO would start implementing 10 projects to put a "human face" to the network's "innovative fund-raising method" that has come under attack from the political opposition.

Paragas said the foundation was prepared to release up to P15 million from the endowment fund to finance the projects, which are dominated by non-CODE-NGO members.

One of the 10 projects approved by the Peace Foundation is a water rehabilitation project for residents of Irisan, where Baguio City's old dumpsite is located.

Another project, designed as a water rehabilitation program, is for an urban poor community in Pasig City through the Ayala Foundation. A third project is an agricultural subsidy program for South Cotabato farmers.

Probe delays projects

Songco lamented that the Senate investigation of CODE-NGO's purchase of P35-billion worth of zero-coupon bonds, also known as Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, or Peace bonds, was slowing fund releases from the endowment fund for poverty alleviation projects.

"The Senate investigation is slowing down some NGO projects because the processing and release of funds from the endowment fund is being delayed," Songco told the INQUIRER.

He said the time and energy being spent by CODE-NGO officials in defending the deal before the Senate committee on finance and in the media are delaying the projects.

"Because of this controversy, we are being distracted from our work of funding poverty alleviation projects but we welcome the Senate investigation to see if there is indeed anything illegal," Songco said.

"All we ask for is a fair investigation," he added.

Sen. John Osmeña claims that the sale of P35 billion in zero-coupon bonds was rigged to favor CODE-NGO's underwriter, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

A sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Ma. Soccoro Camacho-Reyes, chairs CODE-NGO.

Songco admitted that some NGO members had suggested that Camacho-Reyes resign as CODE-NGO chair to deflect charges against the group, but he said, "to do so would be an admission of guilt."

'Accidental'

At the Ugnayan forum yesterday, Camacho-Reyes said her being a sister to the finance secretary was just "accidental" and had no bearing in the awarding of the bond offer to CODE-NGO.

Asked why it was only under the Macapagal administration that CODE-NGO was tapping domestic funds through the bond flotation, Camacho-Reyes said it was only lately that local NGOs were suffering from dwindling funds from foreign donors.

"We needed to get funds from our own initiatives because we need to continue our work. If we do not do this, NGOs will fade because support is dwindling," she said.

Songco said, "if there was anything we exploited, it was the environment provided by the Macapagal administration for things like this."

"There is an atmosphere of active involvement of civil society in government efforts to fight poverty," Songco said.

He said it was not only in the purchase of the Peace bonds that CODE-NGO found the means to support NGO projects without foreign funding.

Despite the controversy on the Peace bonds, CODE-NGO will "not be afraid to explore similar means to secure resources to fund poverty-alleviation projects," Songco said. ***With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Camacho set to be confirmed

By Rocky Nazareno
and Clarissa S.Batino

THE SENATE continues to probe the allegedly anomalous issuance of the CODE-NGO Peace P35-billion bonds. Through a resolution, all 21 members of the House minority is pressing for its own investigation.

But the man, who has been dragged into the center of the investigation, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, is poised to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, a CA source told the INQUIRER yeserday.

Camacho's sister is chair of the Code NGO.

A ranking member of the CA, asking anonymity, said the House contingent in the bicameral confirmation body has reportedly received "marching orders from Speaker Jose de Venecia" to get Camacho's appointment past the committee level and submit him in time or confirmation on Wednesday's CA plenary session.

"We learned that the House panel will vote for him on Monday," said the source.

The CA finance committee resumes its hearings on the confirmation of Camacho Monday.

The bid to railroad Camacho's appointment comes even as the Senate probe on his alleged complicity in the Code NGO winning the bid for the Peace bonds has started to heat up.

Sen. John Osmeña had asked the CA not to confirm Camacho while the controversy on the Peace bonds had not been resolved.

Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel said that Camacho should now consider resigning or go on leave for the duration of the Senate investigation "out of *delicadeza* and in fairness to President Macapagal-Arroyo and to himself."

"But of course, resigning will have to be based on *delicadeza* and you cannot teach that to people," he said.

Feisty

A more feisty Camacho came out yesterday in the company of colleagues at the Management Association of the Philippines vowing not to give his detractors the satisfaction of his resignation.

Asked whether he would finally resign if he was again bypassed by the commission on Monday, Camacho said he would "cross the bridge when I get there."

"I have no intention of giving my detractors and critics the satisfaction of discouraging me from pursuing a public service. I just want to focus on my job for now," said the tallest and richest member of the Macapagal Cabinet.

"*Delicadeza*, in this case, is for people who feel guilty. And I am not," he stressed.

Camacho, a member of the MAP, told his colleagues during his speech yesterday that his 11 months of public service had not corrupted him, contrary to reports linking him to the Peace bonds.

Desierto accuser goes for bigger target . . .

From page A1

links, was at the same table with De Venecia and Desierto while attending a Bulong Pulungan at the Westin Philippine Plaza on Dec. 18 last year.

Ong had allegedly overheard De Venecia saying: "*Sabi ko sa iyo, huwag kang mag-worry. Ayan* 35-5 (I told you. No need to worry. There, 35-5)."

"The House can call on Ms Ong and others to testify. I understand Ms Ong is willing to testify," Francisco said in a statement.

He discussed the matter further in an interview.

He said that in the first complaint, he had already disclosed that the House investigation of the Petron scam was averted because his ex-client, banker Luke Roxas, sought the intercession of De Venecia.

In his complaint, he had recalled that then-Zambales Rep. Renato Diaz had asked the House to conduct an inquiry into the P539-million affair.

"However, the House investigation was averted after Mr. Roxas sought the help of then-House Speaker Jose de Venecia," Francisco said in his complaint. De Venecia was Speaker from 1992 to 1998 and then again since 2001.

"Mr. Roxas would thereafter meet with Speaker De Venecia and certain congressmen at the Speaker's house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City," Francisco's complaint said.

In the statement he issued yesterday, Francisco said De Venecia "has a lot of explaining to do why he stopped the investigation of the Petron scam."

The House is set to vote next week on the first impeachment complaint against Desierto.

Weak case

Meanwhile, Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno belittled the Ombudsman's decision to toss back the investigation of the P5.3-billion tax credit scam to a presidential task force as mere "publicity gimmickry."

"It came too late. There's nothing new about it. Again (Desierto) wants to fool the people. But the people are not stupid," Moreno said. This was already the mandate of Task Force 156 when it was reorganized by President Macapagal-Arroyo last October, he added.

The other day, Desierto had written Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to say he had given the task force the authority to fully investigate the Chingkoe companies, which are allegedly responsible for obtaining half of the illegally issued tax credit certificates amounting at last count to at least P5.3 billion.

But Francisco said that the Ombudsman tossed the investigation of these cases back to the task force because he had filed a weak consolidated case involving the Chingkoe companies and because he knew the prosecution would fail.

A second impeachment complaint was filed against Desierto by several complainants that included Francisco and Moreno, this time for his alleged deliberate bungling of the prosecution of the Chingkoe cases. The complainants said that Desierto had preempted the task force by filing a consolidated plunder case against these companies despite an agreement with task force officials to file 12 separate cases.

"Desierto knows that when he filed a weak consolidated case involving all 12 Chingkoe companies, he emasculated the cases," Francisco said.

He also stressed that any other case to be filed by the task force will be a "duplication of the ongoing preliminary investigation by the Ombudsman."

"At the very least, Desierto has given the respondents cause to question the proceedings and delay it for years," Francisco added.

Moreno said he was wondering why Desierto had to write Camacho to "say something that has been earlier agreed upon" between the task force and the ombudsman's office.

What is "puzzling" as well, he said, was that Desierto told Camacho that the task force shall now have the "special privilege" to conduct the investigation.

"Government investigation of the scam is not a special privilege, it is a duty," Moreno said.

Moreno also said that insiders in the Office of the Ombudsman have informed him that the evidence used by Desierto in lodging the complaint involving the Chingkoe firms on Oct. 17, 2001 came from the Senate hearings in 1999.

"As to why Desierto did this is a mystery that will soon be unveiled," he said.

In a separate statement he issued also yesterday, Moreno promised that he would reveal "in due time and at the proper forum" more corrupt practices allegedly committed by Desierto.

"Many people, who have been victims of Desierto's corrupt practices in and out of the Office of the Ombudsman, have been approaching us, volunteering vital information and providing us important pieces of evidence."

In actual combat . . .

From page A1

cerns but with loopholes that would allow the US forces, if fired upon, to fight effectively.

In the end, the test of this TOR or even the Macapagal policy allowing deployment of US troops in Basilan is not whether the TOR is complied with to the letter. The test is in the effectiveness of the Filipino troops in fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

Under the revised ground rules, which took into consideration a number of objections, the United States conceded that the exercises would be terminated within six months. In an earlier draft, the duration of the exercises was six months to a year, and there were even hints of an open-ended duration. The TOR explicitly provides that the exercise shall be "completed within a period of not more than six months."

Fixed framework

It also provides that no permanent US basing and support facilities shall be established as part of the exercise.

The fixed termination of the exercise not only addresses the anxieties of nationalists and opponents of the deployment of US forces in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf, which has been identified by the United States as part of the al-Qaida terrorist network, that it would lead to a more or less permanent US military presence in the Philippines.

For the Macapagal administration, a fixed framework would avert the introduction of larger forces than the 660 US troops specified in the TOR.

It would also be a reasonable framework to determine whether exercise, which is being held in zones disputed with the Abu Sayyaf, will succeed in wiping out or at least neutralizing it. If it does not succeed, Ms Macapagal's policy of allowing the exercise will come under heavy criticism.

The catch

The United States saw to it that by risking the lives of its soldiers in the exercise close to the Abu Sayyaf-controlled areas, their hands would not be tied to retaliate if fired at.

The TOR says the "US exercise participants shall not engage in combat operations, without prejudice to their right of self-defense." Herein lies the catch.

If the Abu Sayyaf attacks the Filipino soldiers with American "trainors" accompanying them, and they hit the Americans, the latter can retaliate according to the best way they can, not only to defend themselves but also probably to pursue the terrorists. In such a case, the TOR cannot be followed to the letter.

The TOR specifies that of the 660 US personnel, only 160 shall be deployed in Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf's redoubt. Usually exercises are held in non-combat areas—i.e., they are mock battles among imaginary enemies. The fact that the exercise is being held in actual Abu Sayyaf terrain has something going for it.

Weapons and tactics can be tested in battle conditions. But it has also big risk in drawing the exercise participants into combat. Part of the reason for the choice of venue is that the United States is helping the Philippine Armed Forces to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf in the context of the wider objective of defeating transnational terrorist networks.

This year's Balikatan is different from previous ones—which were hypothetical. The Basilan deployment is in effect a move to draw and engage the Abu Sayyaf in combat, disguised as involving "only the conduct of military training of RP and US forces with the primary objective of enhancing the operational capabilities of both forces."

If US troops will be fired upon, they will fight the way they want and would disregard "operational authority" of Filipino commanders who, in the first place, are not in a position to tell the Americans how to use their hi-tech weapons and to teach them tactics.

In war, ground rules are extremely flexible. Combat conditions will determine how the TOR will be implemented. In the end, it's the results—or success—that will matter, not quibbling over command structures or the blueprint of action.

Roco loses cool over posters

From page A1

The big ones measured 1 x 6 meters and smaller ones measured 1 x 3 meters.

At the Human Resource Development Center of the Leyte Normal University where the news conference was held, there were at least 20 such streamers. There were more in the rest of the campus.

They were also displayed in practically all public and private schools here and in the two nearby towns of Palo and Tanauan, which Roco was also scheduled to visit yesterday.

Hospitality

Roco said the streamers were just proof of the Leyte residents' hospitality. And such hospitality should be appreciated, not criticized, he said.

Besides, he added, the streamers "would not make us poor."

"And I say, *salamat* (thank you) to them. *Mabuti kung mag-P100 bawat isa* (I doubt if they cost P100 each)," he said.

How much the streamers actually cost, no education official here would say. A source at the regional office would only tell the INQUIRER that they spent more than P200,000 for the one-day conference, and this included the cost of the streamers.

Roco said that instead of paying too much attention "on this show of hospitality," members of the media here should focus on those who are committing illegal activities in government.

"There are so many there who steal by the millions. *Punahin nyo sila.* (Pay attention to them.) These streamers are so small. These are expressions of hospitality. And you take notice of these? *Pero yung mga nagnanakaw ng milyon-milyon, di nyo pinupuna* (But you don't mind those who are stealing millions)," he said.

Warm welcome

The former senator arrived on board a Mercedes Benz owned by the Tacloban city government.

He was welcomed by top officials of the province: Rep. Ted Failon (Leyte, first district), Gov. Remedios Petilla and Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

It was the first time the three local politicians, who are known political adversaries, attended the same occasion.

Roco was apparently angry over insinuations that the presence of so many welcome streamers was meant to remind the people of his supposed presidential ambitions.

Politics, he said, was farthest from his mind. He insisted he had no plans to run for president in 2004.

"No, I'm not running," he said.

DepEd regional director Sol Matugas was quick to come to Roco's defense. He said it was solely their own decision to put up the streamers.

During his speech before the school officials, Roco announced that the DepEd was hiring more than 15,000 teachers for the coming school year when the basic education curriculum will be implemented. He also said applicants for teaching positions no longer have to bring voluminous documents with them.

Gloria has high-powered board of int'l advisers

From page A1

minister of Australia; Stephen Bosworth, former US ambassador to the Philippines and dean of the Fletcher School of Tufts University; Andrea Jung, CEO of Avon; Maurice R. Greenberg, chair of American International Group; Marce Fuller, CEO of Mirant Corp.; Dr. Laura Tyson, dean of the London Graduate School of Business and former economic adviser to ex-US President Bill Clinton.

Minoru Makihara, chair of Mitsubishi Corp.; Junichiro Miyazu, president of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.; Gerard Corrigan, managing director of Goldman Sachs; Dr. Victor Fung, chair of Li and Fung Group; Maarten van den Bergh, chair of Lloyds TSB Group; Dr. Stephen Zuellig, chair of Zuellig Group and Anthony Burgmans, chair of Unilever, NV.

"I will only add that the usefulness of such a distinguished advisory board has been well demonstrated in several modernizing countries, notably Malaysia," said Romulo, a former foreign secretary.

American PR firm

In the letter, Romulo confirmed his role in hiring topnotch US-based public relations firm Burson-Marsteller for $800,000 on July 1, 2002.

Romulo said B-M was awarded a one-year contract "to design and implement a comprehensive communications program" to improve the image of the country overseas.

But he denied the existence of the so-called Sikatuna office, publicly referred to as the "shadow" Department of Foreign Affairs. Romulo was foreign secretary during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos.

"No such office exists; it is purely the concoction of somebody's fertile imagination," he said in the letter which he sent from Canada. The letter was his explanation for his absence from the Senate committee hearing on Thursday.

"I have the highest respect for Vice President Teofisto Guingona and his capabilities to serve our country's foreign relations," Romulo said, adding that Guingona's decision to support Ms Macapagal on Balikatan 02-1, the joint RP-US military exercises in Mindanao, "was an act of statesmanship that will be long remembered."

Romulo also confirmed his role in obtaining a White House invitation for Ms Macapagal, a function usually handled by the DFA.

Because of his recommendations, Romulo said US President George W. Bush met with Ms Macapagal in the White House in November, and even pledged more than $100 million in military aid and other forms of assistance.

Romulo said he was named senior presidential adviser on international competitiveness in January 2002, just days after Ms Macapagal was sworn into office.

He said he was tasked with drawing up a comprehensive plan to improve the country's sovereign risk rating, restore investor confidence, build bilateral and multilateral economic support for long-term development and raise the country's importance as a crucial US ally in regional security in East and Southeast Asia.

To achieve these goals, Romulo said he formulated a five-point plan, which includes the creation of an international board of advisers composed of "top global business and academic leaders to provide advice on how to improve the country's global competitiveness and to generate endorsements of the country's economic program."

Advisory Council

In his five-point plan, Romulo also suggested the creation of a Presidential Advisory Council "that will develop a checklist of problems and issues of governance, transparency and anti-corruption and a plan to address each issue through legislation, executive order or voluntary agreement."

The Council is composed of Dr. Jesus Estanislao as chair with Ricardo Romulo, Ernesto Garilao and Juan Santos as members.

"The President accepted these recommendations and authorized us to proceed with the implementation of the plan," he said.

Romulo said Burson-Marsteller was hired by the Office of the President following a "competitive evaluation of reputable international" communications firms.

He said B-M coordinates with the Investor Relations Office, which was set up jointly by the departments of finance, trade and industry and the Bangko Sentral.

Romulo said the 30 percent of the B-M fees would come from the private sector. But while the private sector had agreed to the arrangement, "private contributions have yet to be made," he said.

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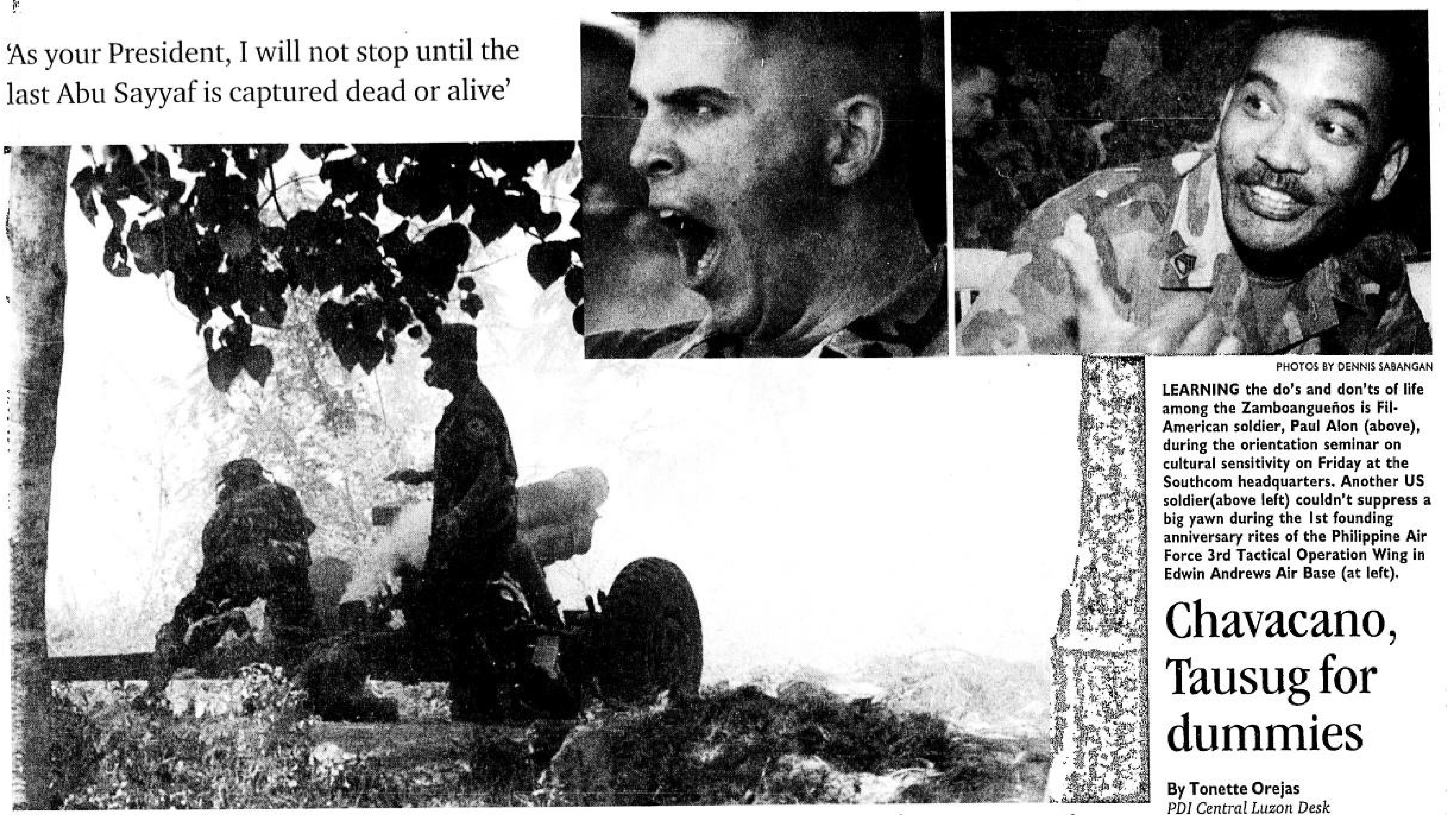
'As your President, I will not stop until the last Abu Sayyaf is captured dead or alive'



PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

LEARNING the do's and don'ts of life among the Zamboangueños is Fil-American soldier, Paul Alon (above), during the orientation seminar on cultural sensitivity on Friday at the Southcom headquarters. Another US soldier(above left) couldn't suppress a big yawn during the 1st founding anniversary rites of the Philippine Air Force 3rd Tactical Operation Wing in Edwin Andrews Air Base (at left).

Gloria talks tough vs terror, a la Bush

From page A1

Balikatan 02-1, Ms Macapagal said it was time to know who were on the side of "security, peace and development for the Filipino" and who were "with the Abu Sayyaf and continued disorder in Basilan and Mindanao."

"It's time to determine who are with democracy and cooperation between free countries and those on the side of terrorism and the reign of Osama bin Laden," she said, adding:

"We're either for or against democracy, freedom and prosperity. There can be no bystanders."

And like Bush who promised to go after Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network no matter what and how long it took, Ms Macapagal said: "As your President, I will not stop until the last Abu Sayyaf is captured dead or alive."

The President rhetorically asked who could be opposed to the military exercise that various sectors were questioning on grounds of constitutionality.

"You are not a Filipino if you are opposed to the welfare of your own soldier," she said. "You are not a Filipino if you refuse the help being offered by a friend. You are not a Filipino if you don't want the peace and prosperity promised by Balikatan 02-1."

She said that at the end of the six-month military exercise, the Armed Forces of the Philippines would emerge stronger and more capable.

"I have much confidence that if we can only unite, we can bury this Abu Sayyaf problem, and once we're freed from the tentacles of terrorism, investors will come back, tourists will flock in, the economy will improve and jobs will be created," she said.

Shortcuts

Responding to a reporter's question, the President dismissed a comment aired Thursday by Sen. Joker Arroyo that the AFP had taken shortcuts by allowing the deployment of US troops even before the terms of reference (TOR) for Balikatan 02-1 had been approved by both sides.

She said that it was she who "wanted" the TOR, but that had she not insisted on it, the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement would have covered the US military presence in the country.

"In the past, there was never a need for a TOR," she pointed out.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez also denied that shortcuts were taken.

"The US government responded fast to the request of the Philippines for military assistance, and the (Philippine) government simply reciprocated by acting fast also," he said in a statement.

Golez said "the first concrete agreement" was made last Nov. 20, when Ms Macapagal met with Bush at the White House.

He quoted their joint statement as stating: "The two leaders affirmed that they would continue to work on a vigorous, integrated plan to strengthen the Philippines' security forces' capacity to combat terror and protect Philippine sovereignty. Such an integrated plan would include a robust training package, equipment needed for increased mobility, a maintenance program to enhance overall capabilities, specific targeted law enforcement and counter-terrorism cooperation, and a new bilateral defense consultative mechanism."

Golez also said that had the Philippine government "failed to respond fast and (taken) the usual five-month preparation period, this exercise would be implementable only next year since it would overlap the tough rainy season in Mindanao."

"We would then be overtaken by events since terrorism does not wait," he said.

The President said the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security was to meet again last night to discuss the TOR and related issues.

The committee approved the TOR early this week, with Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona designated to sign the document for the Philippine government.

US charge d'affaires Robert Fitts is to sign for US State Secretary Colin Powell, but Guingona yesterday told reporters that the teleconference between him and Powell had yet to take place.

Unrealistic

But former Senate President Jovito Salonga is not sold on the government's assurance that Philippine commanders would have authority over their US counterparts.

He described the TOR, which has yet to be approved by the US side, as "unrealistic."

"I have a problem with the (issue of) command and authority," Salonga said in an ambush interview at the Club Filipino yesterday. "I don't think that when US troops are already on the ground, they would find it necessary to call on Philippine commanders to clear their movements."

But Salonga, who was president of the Senate when it voted to kick out the US bases in 1991, said all he knew about the TOR was limited to what he had read in the newspapers.

"I want to go over the terms of reference minutely," he said.

Salonga was at the Club Filipino for the second anniversary celebration of his group Bantay Katarungan, at which Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo was the guest of honor.

Romulo said he believed that the TOR would ensure Philippine sovereignty. "Definitely, the Philippine officers would be followed by the American troops in the exercises," he said.

Salonga, who has repeatedly expressed dismay over the US deployment, said the TOR would not sufficiently cover the US military presence.

"There should have been an agreement first before (the US troops) were allowed to go to Mindanao" he said.

Wigberto Tañada, who, as a senator, also voted against the continued stay of the US bases, said the TOR had yet to ease his apprehensions.

"(The US troops) are here not for military exercises but for combat (against the Abu Sayyaf)," he said.

Both Salonga and Tañada believe that the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement should have been in place before the US troops were deployed.

But Golez said he was "surprised at the reaction of some quarters to this training exercise."

"It is as though the US were not our closest ally," he said, adding that Balikatan 02-1 would "not only enhance our military capability in the fight against international terrorism but also promote our national interest."

No immunity

Guingona said "no immunity" would be accorded US troops if they committed violations or crimes during their stay.

Emerging from a forum sponsored by the Graft-Free Philippines Foundation Inc at the Philippine International Convention Center, Guingona told reporters that "if, for example, an American serviceman commits something while on official duty, the provision of the VFA will apply" and "he will be prosecuted under Philippine laws."

Under the VFA, US troops may be prosecuted both under Philippine and US laws.

Guingona said no law was violated by the US troops when they came here earlier than Feb. 15, the actual start of Balikatan 02-1.

"They're not in a Basilan area," he said. "They are just there resting, and the (VFA) allows them to be here."

He also said the US troops would follow the Philippine "chain of command."

In a phone interview with reporters, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the 160-strong US Special Forces contingent would not be deployed in combat zones until the TOR had been finalized.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said he would not surrender command to the US troops.

"I won't give them command," Villanueva said in a separate phone interview. "How can I give them command when it's purely a training exercise? My only guidance is that they won't be sent to the combat zone."

Of the 660 American troops, only 160 belonging to the US Special Forces will actually participate in the training. They will be divided into 12 "teams" that will be deployed to Filipino battalions.

The training will be capped by actual "missions" in Basilan, where the Abu Sayyaf is holding hostages including an American missionary couple.

According to Capt. Noel Detoyato, acting spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, the over-all commander for the exercise is Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

Detoyato said in a radio interview that Balikatan 02-1 was actually divided into two activities—operation and training.

"The operation is being handled directly by Task Force Comet, while the training will be handled by Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio for the Philippine side and Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster for the US," he said.

Boundary conditions

Senate foreign relations committee chair Blas Ople said he was satisfied with the TOR but that the chamber was reserving action on the matter until after an official response from the United States.

"The document meets the boundary conditions on Philippine sovereignty and the Constitution," Ople said in a statement.

He said it "upheld the authority of the Philippine commander on the ground in the Balikatan exercises and definitely ruled out participation of US troops in combat operations."

He also said Senate committee on national defense chair Ramon Magsaysay and the committee members shared his views on the matter.

The committees chaired by Ople and Magsaysay are conducting an inquiry on Balikatan 02-1.

Ople said the two panels would call "one or more public hearings" after the US government had communicated its approval or disapproval of the TOR. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Christine Herrera, Martin P. Marfil and Rocky Nazareno***

No kissing in public, Yanks in Zambo told

From page A1

source of tension and irritation for the public."

Seminar participants were given a booklet dealing with the history of Zamboanga and nearby Basilan island, where the Abu Sayyaf is holding an American couple hostage and where US Special Forces may be allowed to enter combat zones to observe Filipino troops but not engage in fighting.

There were discussions on Moro tribal groups and their practices and taboos.

"You have to refrain from showing public display of affection by embracing or kissing while strolling along our thoroughfares or in our plazas for this may offend the sensitivities of the people," the booklet said.

There was a subtle line discouraging troops from patronizing sex workers: "As you may have noticed, we don't operate any red-light districts."

US soldiers said the seminar provided important insights into the local culture and added they were blending in well so far. Some said they had started to learn to say greetings in the local tongue.

According to Army Maj. Ted Rhodes of Hawaii, the American soldiers are aware that "to defeat terrorism is to win the hearts and minds of the people."

Restricted

The more than 200 American soldiers who have already arrived in Zamboanga have been restricted to a sprawling military camp for security.

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the US contingent, had earlier said he regretted that, but added "there are many people right here who would like to do us harm."

Various sectors are opposing Balikatan 02-1—particularly the Philippine government's decision to allow US troops to enter combat areas in Basilan—on the grounds of constitutional restrictions on foreign troops in the country.

Others have raised fears of a rise in prostitution, citing the bars and honky-tonks that sprouted in communities near the then US military bases in Clark, Pampanga, and Subic, Zambales.

Two lawyers have filed a suit with the Supreme Court to stop Balikatan 02-1, claiming, among other things, that it would lead to a "shooting war."

But US soldiers said they did not feel slighted by the protests, including mass actions held almost daily in Manila and elsewhere in the country.

"I believe in free speech," said Lt. Col. Steve Woods, who heads a US Air Force contingent at a Zamboanga air base. "You have a democratic society here and people can say what they want. That's up to them." ***AP***

12 kidnappers slain in shootout with cops

From page A1

Cruz said the police encountered the 12 men, who were aboard a white Mitsubishi L-300 van, after they had come down from Baguio City and were already on their way to Bayambang town for another kidnapping operation. No policeman was hurt because the operation was "well-coordinated," he said.

Police were still verifying the identification cards of the other slain suspects as of presstime.

Mendoza said the police had set up the checkpoint following intelligence reports of the group's alleged kidnap plans. He did not name the town official reported to have been targeted, however.

Recovered from the suspects were four M-14 and M-16 rifles, a carbine rifle, a .45-cal. pistol, iron bars, radio transceivers, an axe, flashlights and four traveling bags.

Baguio tip

Cruz said the group had been under surveillance for a week before yesterday's encounter. He said they started monitoring the group after receiving a tip from the Baguio City police.

The Baguio police confirmed that the Bagis Gang had been on their watch list for several months. The group, whose name was coined from the Ilocano word, "*kabagis* (peer)," is also on the police's most wanted list for robbery incidents in the Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley.

"The Bagis Gang members usually rob and then slip out. That's what they do in Baguio. They rob and then they run down Kennon Road," said Insp. Amador Orcino, a Baguio police intelligence officer.

Kidnapping gangs have increased activity in the country in recent months, prompting President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the police and the military to mount a new anti-kidnapping campaign.

"We will meet the new round of kidnappings with more intense focus and counterforce," the President said at rites marking the 11th anniversary of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame.

The kidnappings, which have tarnished the country's image as an investment haven and tourist destination, have been a stumbling block to Ms Macapagal's efforts to attract foreign investors and tourists.

But in her anniversary speech, she limited the focus of the renewed anti-kidnapping drive to two bandit groups: the Pentagon gang that is holding Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni and the Abu Sayyaf. ***With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Chavacano, Tausug for dummies

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—US troops participating in the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 appear prepared for hostile situations, according to the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition (NFPC).

This preparedness is evident in a "Special Traveler Project" document obtained by the NFPC from sources in the United States.

At least four pages of the document indicated that the US military had contracted a firm to translate a statement and several questions—all in English—into Tausug and Spanish (the language nearest Chavacano).

Tausug and Chavacano are the languages spoken in Basilan, where US Special Forces are to supervise field training, and in Zamboanga City, where they have held camp since arriving last December.

Basilan is where the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding hostage American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, is based. Several areas in Mindanao are strongholds of the Moro National Liberation Front, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, New People's Army, armed bands of indigenous tribes and various smaller armed groups.

Prof. Roland Simbulan, NFPC chair, said the statement and questions that needed to be translated were "basics" in surviving emergency circumstances such as being wounded or lost.

Simbulan said this was the statement translated in Tausug and Spanish: "I am an American and do not speak your language. I will not harm you! I bear no malice toward your people. My friend, please provide me food, water, shelter and necessary medical attention. Also, provide safe passage to the nearest friendly forces of any country supporting the Americans or their allies. You will be rewarded for assisting me when you present this number to American authorities."

A page of the document titled "Task Description" identified the "RIC International" as the firm contracted for the translation job.

The firm had been instructed to "please use colloquial register that is mostly likely understood by a typical, possibly uneducated, native speaker residing in the appropriate geographical region."

The page detailing the task description did not indicate the contracting party or the country where it will be used. But another page referred to users or concerned parties as "Americans," "nearest friendly forces of any country supporting Americans or their allies," and "American authorities."

Simbulan said the US sources of the NFPC were certain that the "client" was the US military.

Atilano 3rd overall in Asia

TAMPIN, Malaysia—Rookie Emilito Atilano clung to a breakaway group in the final 70 kilometers and finished yesterday's longest lap third overall in Asia as the Philippines topped the Le Tour de Langkawi's Stage 7 team competition with another swashbuckling run at the flat terrain. Atilano improved his 4th place Stage 6 ride by arriving second this time.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Tyson applies for fight license in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas—Mike Tyson, barred from fighting WBC-IBF heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis in Nevada, applied for a license to fight in Texas. The Nevada Athletic Commission voted 4-1 on Jan. 29 to deny Tyson a license to fight Lewis on April 6 in Las Vegas. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation will process Thursday's request. **AP**

Shark dribbler, family survive car accident

By Dennis U. Eroa

FOXY Michael "Topex" Robinson, whose playmaking skills helped Shark Energy Drink retain its PBL Challenge Cup title, yesterday survived an accident which left his car a total wreck along the North Expressway in Pulilan, Bulacan.

Randel Maglantay, Shark's longtime physical therapist, told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview that the 5-foot-8 Robinson, known for his intelligent style of play, obviously fell asleep while driving his wife and 6-year-old son Carlo back to his hometown Olongapo City.

"It was a good thing that Topex and his wife were wearing seatbelts," said Maglantay, who rushed to Pulilan's Good Shepherd Hospital from Manila after getting a call from a 'panicky' Robinson. "The car fell into a 15-foot ravine."

Maglantay said Robinson and his family suffered no serious injuries escaped from minor cuts and bruises but the Shark dribbler appeared to have suffered from temporary amnesia due to the impact.

"Doctors told me that Topex was jumping up and down looking for his family. Fact was, he forgot for a while that we've beaten Welcoat for the Challenge Cup plum."

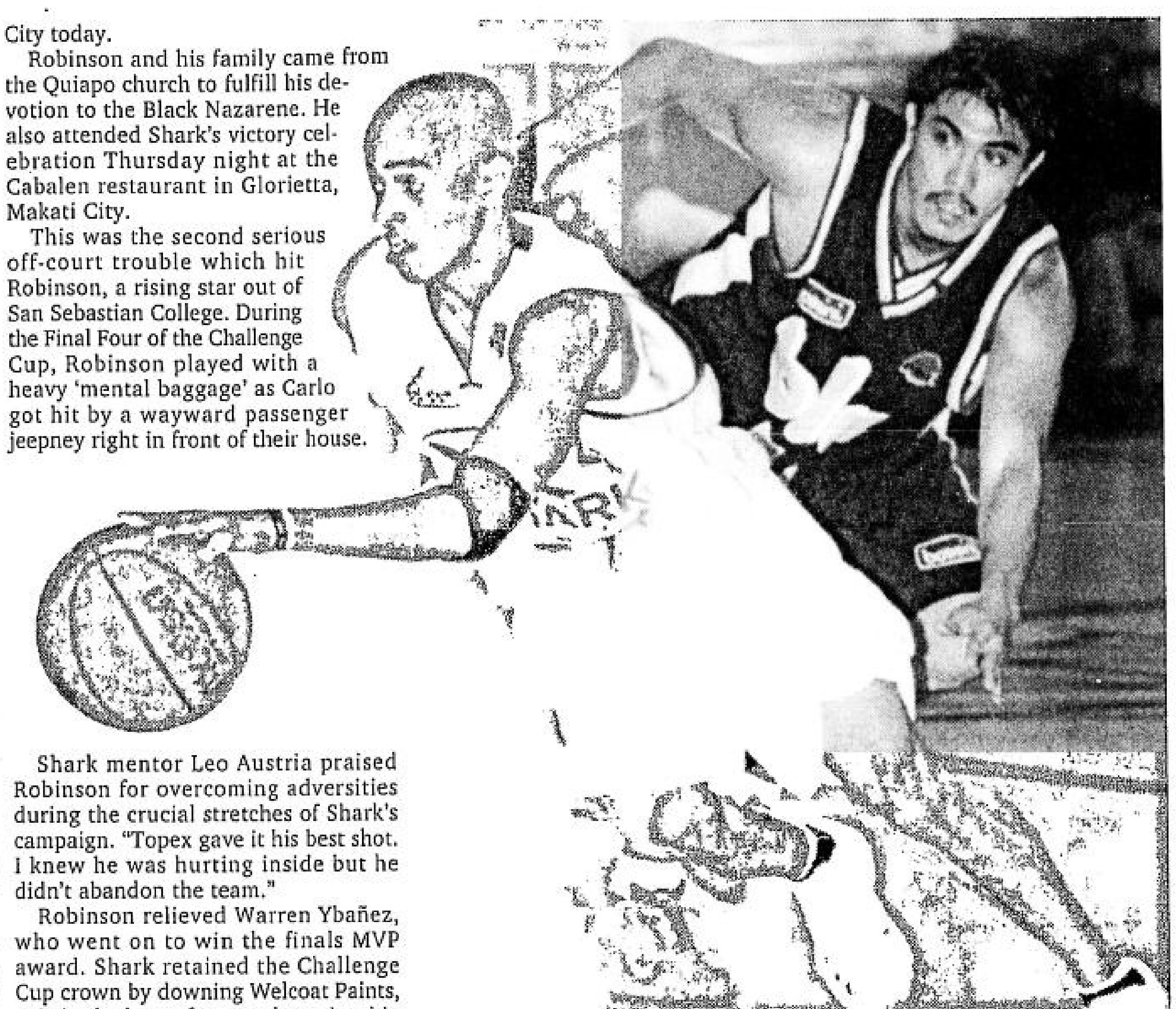
Employees of the Philippine National Construction Corporation rushed the Robinsons to the nearest hospital. They are scheduled to be transferred to the James Gordon Hospital in Olongapo City today.

Robinson and his family came from the Quiapo church to fulfill his devotion to the Black Nazarene. He also attended Shark's victory celebration Thursday night at the Cabalen restaurant in Glorietta, Makati City.

This was the second serious off-court trouble which hit Robinson, a rising star out of San Sebastian College. During the Final Four of the Challenge Cup, Robinson played with a heavy 'mental baggage' as Carlo got hit by a wayward passenger jeepney right in front of their house.

Shark mentor Leo Austria praised Robinson for overcoming adversities during the crucial stretches of Shark's campaign. "Topex gave it his best shot. I knew he was hurting inside but he didn't abandon the team."

Robinson relieved Warren Ybañez, who went on to win the finals MVP award. Shark retained the Challenge Cup crown by downing Welcoat Paints, 4-3, in the best-of-seven championship series.



ROBINSON (left) does an escape act in this file photo. ROMY HOMILLADA

Buyout order has no legal basis—FedEx

By June Navarro

THE INSISTENCE of the PBA Commissioner's Office to compel Federal Express to pay P4.5 million as compensation to the contract buyout of Rene Hawkins would be enough to spark a legal battle, a reliable source yesterday told the INQUIRER.

The source said Tanduay and FedEx officials were taking up the case as a legal issue, saying PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino has no legal basis to back up his decision granting Hawkins a three-year contract buyout worth P4.5 million.

Bernardino offered a settlement that will compel FedEx to pay Hawkins P2.1 million from its pocket and P2.4 million stashed away from its equity in the PBA on or before Feb. 26.

FedEx president Lito Alvarez, however, refused to attach his signature on the said agreement.

In a statement prepared by Telesforo Cedo, Tanduay's alternate governor during its three-year stay in the league, Tanduay charged the PBA of selective approval.

Cedo said the Commissioner's Office refused to honor the pact stipulating Tanduay's privilege to rescind the contract of Hawkins after the 2002 season even though it was submitted to the PBA several times in the past.

Cedo cited the case of former Tanduay coach Alfrancis Chua, who was fired but still got compensated for the rest of his contract through the intercession of the PBA. Cedo said the PBA helped indemnify Chua despite having no copy of Chua's contract.

In that case, he said there's no reason for the PBA not to honor the contract of Hawkins that carries an exit or re-negotiation clause after the 2002 season.

As of yesterday, the Commissioner's Office stood firm on its decision to bestow Hawkins a three-year P4.5 million buyout charged from the coffers of Federal Express.

Energy Kings to fight for the future, says Panlilio

AUSTRIA

By Dennis U. Eroa

AFTER giving Welcoat Paints a rude farewell, Shark Energy Drink now trains its sight on establishing a new order in the PBL.

"We'll be hard to beat as we fight for the future," said Raul Panlilio, who co-owns the Shark franchise with Dioceldo Sy, chair of the PBL.

With the Paintmasters temporarily putting their jerseys in the closet, the rise of the Energy Drink Kings seems inevitable.

But don't tell this to Panlilio and Shark mentor Leo Austria, who with the victory, cemented his place in the elite list of PBL's winning coaches.

"I believe that the remaining teams will push us to the limit. Blu Detergent, Kutitap and ICTSI-La Salle to name a few will be very competitive. It's not going to be a stroll in the park for us," said Austria, owner of two Challenge Cup titles.

Panlilio said the coming season will again be an acid test for Shark. " We savor this victory but to tell you frankly it's going to be very difficult for us to keep on winning with the presence of worthy rivals," Panlilio said.

The absence of Welcoat will be a tremendous loss to the league, Panlilio said. "Welcoat has set the gauge for excellence for quite a time. I feel sad but relieved that its absence is just temporary."

"What's Shark without Welcoat? It's like bread without butter," Austria said."Welcoat helped in making Shark a champion team. I look forward to a resumption of the Shark-Welcoat rivalry."

Shark needed a playoff win over Ana Freezers to enter the Final Four, then it beat dangerous ICTSI-La Salle's twice in a row to make the finals. Austria's charges actually finished their campaign with an impressive 7-1 win-loss card.

Welcoat and Shark are now 2-2 in four finals meeting. The Paintmasters swept the Energy Drink Kings in two Chairman's Cup best-of-seven titular series.

"Coach Junel (Baculi) is a good friend of mine. He always squeezes the best out of me," Austria, who once served as Baculi's deputy with Hapee Toothpaste, said.

Just when everybody thought Welcoat was ripe for the picking, Baculi's charges came alive with a 66-47 victory in Game Four. Sans Baculi, who was thrown out for getting two technical fouls, Welcoat made life harder for Shark before losing Game Five in overtime, 64-58.

"The ejection of Junel lifted our hopes. Losing the fifth game would be a tremendous blow to our title bid," Austria said. Welcoat was aiming to become the first team in local cage history to recover from 0-3 down and win the title.

Ren Ren Ritualo, Yancy de Ocampo and Allen Patrimonio tried their best to gatecrash Shark's party but they failed as the Energy Drink Kings proved steadier down the stretch.

Shark is going to lose Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan to the pro ranks. Rising stars like Clarence Cole, Ervin Sotto, Rysal Castro, Michael Robinson and Warren Ybañez have expiring contracts but not to worry.

"There are untapped potentials within the team. Shark's isn't afraid to rebuild and hurdle new challenges," Austria concluded.

Asiad training depletes Coke

COKE faces a daunting task of staying competitive in the PBA Governors Cup after five of its top players were released to the national pool training for the Asian Games.

"It will definitely be a Herculean task. Those guys are not just ordinary players, they form part of the team's offensive nucleus," said Chot Reyes, Coke's bench strategist.

Lending their services to the national team were slotman Poch Juinio, playmaker Johnny Abarrientos, Rudy Hatfield, Jeffrey Cariaso and rookie Rafi Reavis.

Reyes stressed that guys like William Antonio, Estong Ballesteros, Renato Morano and Cris Bolado have to step up and provide ample support to the Tigers' imports—Fred Williams and Roselle Ellis.

"In the absence of the players who were released in the national training pool, these guys are hard-pressed to step up," said Reyes.

Veterans Freddie Abuda, Lowell Briones and Allan Gamboa are also there to share their talent along with rookies Jojo Manalo, Leo Avenido, Gilbert Lao and Jason Misolas. *June Navarro*

Osaka Iridology seeks MBA slot

OSAKA Iridology is keen on joining the Metropolitan Basketball Association this season.

Jonathan Guardo, CEO and president of Osaka Iridology, has met twice with MBA honchos to find ways with which the company could enter the league, which has actually met its 'ideal' target of eight teams for the first conference slated to start April 6.

Mon Tuason, MBA director for marketing and business development, said Osaka Iridology would likely be accommodated into new member Olongapo or franchise applicants Lucena and Taguig.

"We like the MBA's concept of combining corporate sponsorship with regionalism," said Guardo, also the president of the Cebu Basketball League and chair of the Cebu Sports Commission, which is spearheading the province's bid to host the 2004 Southeast Asian Games.

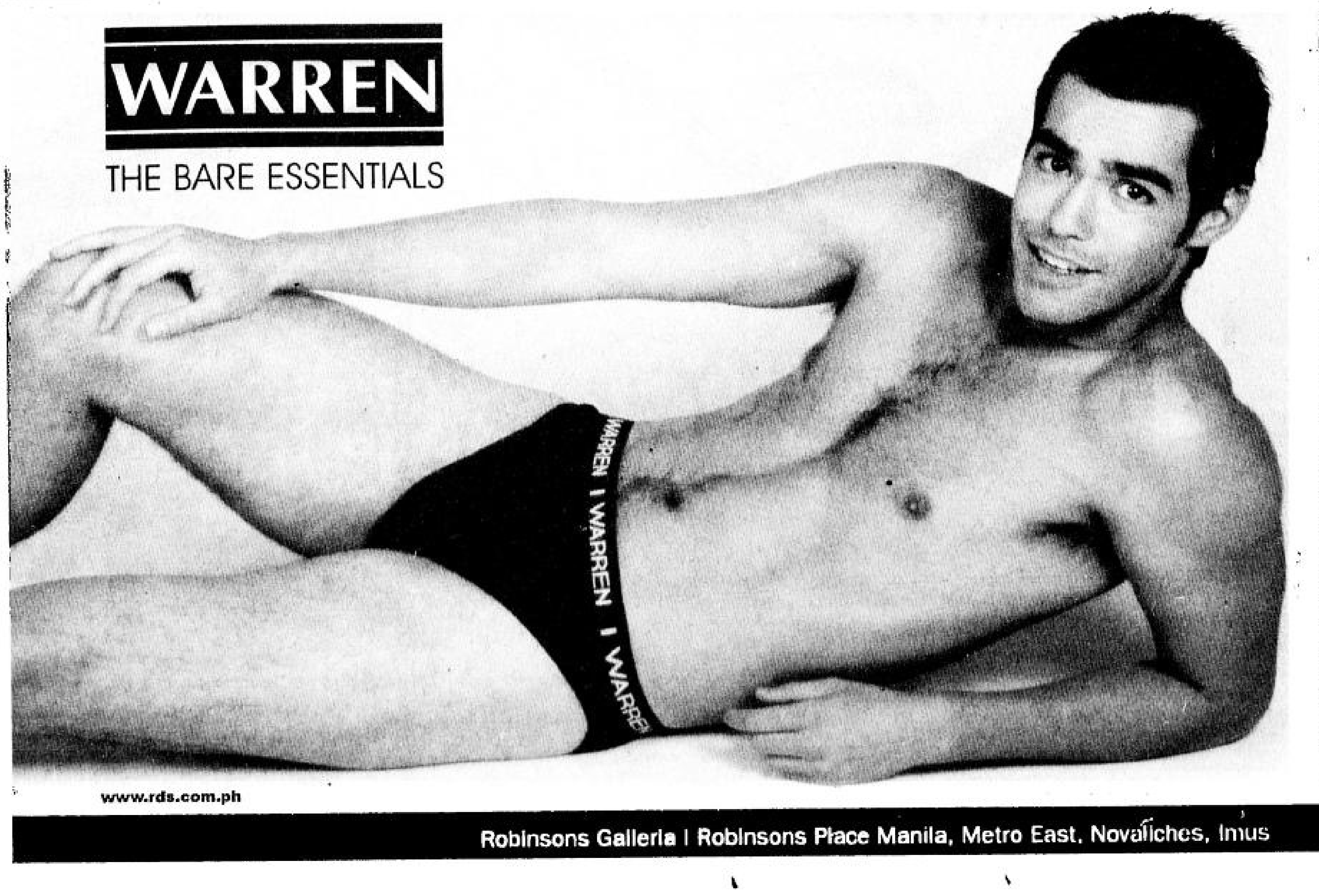
After exploratory talks with Tuason Tuesday night, Guardo met with MBA commissioner Chito Loyzaga, Multi-Regional Board Inc. chairman Santi Araneta and also Tuason Wednesday night, where they were able to set the parameters concerning Osaka Iridology's entry.

Tuason said every new corporate sponsor coming in is welcome, especially for companies which have a nationwide network. Osaka Iridology has at least 40 branches, 20 of which are spread out in Metro Manila and Luzon.

Seles, Henin advance

PARIS — Monica Seles and Justine Henin will face off in the quarterfinals of the Gaz de France tournament after both players won their second-round matches Thursday. Seles, the world No. 10, defeated Italy's Adriana Serra-Zanetti 7-5, 6-2. Seventh-ranked Henin, needed 2 hours and 32 minutes to beat Nathalie Dechy 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (8). *AP*

Robinsons Department Store



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VILLAROMAN FALTERS

De Guzman wins 'Ladies' at Del Monte

By Al S. Mendoza

DE GUZMAN: A winner again. FILE PHOTO

DEL MONTE, Bukidnon—In the end, the oldest was the best.

Lina de Guzman, just spotting golf's young guns from ladies row the first two days, made her move yesterday and won the 39th Southern Ladies Open at Del Monte Golf Club.

The 40-year-old De Guzman, whose major rivals are almost half her age, fired her third straight 1-under-par 71 (55-55-55=165) to score the come-from-behind victory amid all the expected last-day drama.

She beat Valley's 19-year-old Aileen Rose Yao by 3 points to pocket the nation's most coveted women's crown next only to the Philippine Ladies Open.

Yao, 1 point behind De Guzman at the start of the round, was in the title hunt but bogeys on 15 and 18 negated screaming birdies on 13 and 14. She finished with 53, 1-over-par, after earlier rounds of 54-55 for 162.

Two-day leader Carmelette Villaroman drowned her hopes when she drove into the large lake fronting the green of the par-3 16th in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, DHL, Directories Philippines Corp., Air Philippines, Mizuno, Hidden Spring, Mitsubishi Motors, Belmonte Corp. and the Gopez Group of Companies.

The 25-year-old Villaroman, De Guzman's teammate at Canlubang, pulled her 8-iron on the 116-yard 16th known as the "Warne's Hole" after Del Monte executive Thomas Warne hit 36 balls into the water during a tournament in 1938.

Villaroman finished double bogey en route to a 4-over-par 50 points after brilliant rounds of 56 (2-under-par) and 55 (1-under-par).

Villaroman fell into a tie for third with Wack Wack's ousted champion Heidi Chua (53-52-56=161) but the former world junior champion settled for fourth after the tiebreak as Chua birdied 18.

Lora Roberto of Southwoods was fifth with 51-54-55 for 160, Del Monte's Eva Minoza sixth with 50-47-49=146 in a tie with Del Monte teammate Lovelyn Guioguio (49-49-47=146). Lucy Candicho of Canlubang was eighth (46-52-47=145) in a tie with Southwoods' Tracy Locsin (48-49-48=145).

De Guzman's victory recalled her Cinderella triumph in 1991 in Bacolod.

"I'm so happy I won again," said De Guzman in Tagalog, her eyes moistening, her voice cracking. "I almost quit the game last year after doctors told me the bone spurs on my feet could not be removed permanently."

The Tanauan-born (Batangas) De Guzman, sixth in a brood of eight, said what she is today she owes it to Luigi Yulo, the Canlubang patriarch.

"If not for Sir Louie, I would not be where I am now," said De Guzman, who played in the 1992 Vancouver World Amateurs and the 1995 and 1999 SEA Games in Bangkok and Brunei, respectively. "Sir Louie gave me a job at Canlubang's driving range and to me, that gave me a chance to really hone up my game when I'm off picking balls for customers. The money I earn helps my family very much, especially my widowed mother."

To win a second time, De Guzman rammed home birdies on 14 and 17 for a huge 4-point cushion going to 18, where she had the luxury to score a bogey and still emerge champion. She made bogey.

In team play, the winner was Cebu Team We Do (Gloria Alazas, Jo Veloso, Jeanette Chiu, Joan Castillo). Second was Del Monte IV (Maribel San Miguel, Cloy Abejuela, Linda Arinzol, Mayette Comique), Wack Wack I third (Heidi Chua, Cheryl Chua, Sheelah Kho, Stella Laurel) in a tie with Wack Wack 2 (Stephanie Yu, Vicky Farrales, Nena Nakpil, Donna Leveriza) and Pueblo de Oro 2 fifth (Ryoko Nagai, Lane Geolegue, Marlyn Lui, Celine Menez).

Other scores:

Class A—Venice Godio 133 Sta. Elena, Stephanie Yu 132 Wack Wack, Cynthia Antonio 132 Villamor, Inday Minoza 132 Del Monte, Menci Millonado 128 Wack Wack.

Class B—Cheryl Chua 125 Wack Wack, Hilda Badong 121 Phil Navy, Nena Nakpil 120 Wack Wack, Necing Baslan 115 Del Monte, Kim Jeong 114 Del Monte.

Class C—Marissa Romano 107 Orchard, Alice Andrada 106 Alabang, Gloria Alazas 106 Cebu Country Club, Aloma Lopez 102 Iligan, Anita Sale 94 Del Monte.

Class D—Sheelah Kho 95 Wack Wack, Linda Arinzol 90 Del Monte, Mitchie Comique 89 Del Monte, Maribel San Miguel 87 Del Monte, Melanie Villar 85 Alabang.

Lam-Am Results—Anita Sale-Ruben Nagales (Del Monte), Lora Roberto (Southwoods) and Raul Coronia (Del Monte), Mencie Millonado (Wack Wack) and Johnny Minoza (Del Monte), Heidi Chua (Wack Wack) and Virgil Abejuela (Del Monte).

A world of words from Miñoza

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

FRANKIE Miñoza is presently on a break from the Japan Tour, where he spends from seven to eight months a year playing in at least 22 tournaments. The farm boy that he will always be, Frankie makes it a point to be back in his native Del Monte up in Bukidnon whenever he has the time. He has added hunting wild boars and deer to his favorite hobby—racing 4x4 pickups in off-road competitions.

Some days back, he played with the aspiring Miñozas of Del Monte Golf Club at the fabled course in the cool mountains of Cawayanon in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, the same course that nurtured not only Miñoza but golf's other legend: Tino Tugot.

There were about a dozen of them; many were teenagers, each one dreaming to become the next Frankie Miñoza.

They were all doing fine. Until it rained cats and dogs.

"They thought I would scamper for shelter when the rains came," said Frankie, very animated when he was relating the story to me a couple of days back. "But no. I did not stop playing."

Some of the kids ran for cover. Others stuck by him. When the would-be quitters saw that Frankie was plodding on, they had a change of heart. They ran back to the fairways. And continued playing.

After the round, Frankie had all the kids around him like the disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Thank you for standing by me, rain or shine" Frankie would next tell the boys. "But do you know that what you did was for your own good? When you continued playing despite the rains, you did it not for me but for your own selves."

He did not inflict on them the feeling of guilt.

"I did that to them," Frankie said, "to instill in them the value of hard work. You don't work hard, you don't know how to sacrifice, you'll get nowhere."

Then he recalled the days when he was practically on his own honing up his game, toughening up his body and psyching himself up for the big battles ahead. He even had tree branches for golf clubs, guavas for golf balls.

"These boys," he was telling me again, "they are getting all the support they need from Del Monte right now. Free balls, shoes, golf clubs, everything. They are allowed to play everyday.

But you know what? They only play Monday, Wednesday and Friday."

He wants them to play everyday.

"That's the only way to really achieve discipline," he said. "You don't take the game seriously, then the game's not for you. A career in golf is never, ever a picnic."

SPORTSWATCH

RP Hobie Cat Challenge starts in Ilocos Sur

SEVEN foreign teams invade the local sailing scene as the Third Philippine Hobie Cat Challenge begins tomorrow in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur. Billed as the country's premier sailing event, the week-long race will negotiate the northwestern Luzon route starting from Sta. Maria down all the way to Subic Bay. The race will have stops at San Fernando, La Union; Bolinao in Pangasinan, Hermana Mayor Island and Capones Island before finishing the Feb. 10-17 tour in Subic. Top catamaran sailors from United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, Romania and Hong Kong will mix it up with four solid local teams while some foreign competitors join their Filipino counterparts in the Regatta organized by the Philippine Hobie Challenge Foundation. According to race officer Jerry Rollins, safety will be the event's paramount concern as the participants and organizing committee are required to carry safety and navigational equipment during the tournament.

Galleros derby set Feb. 13 at Roligon cockpit

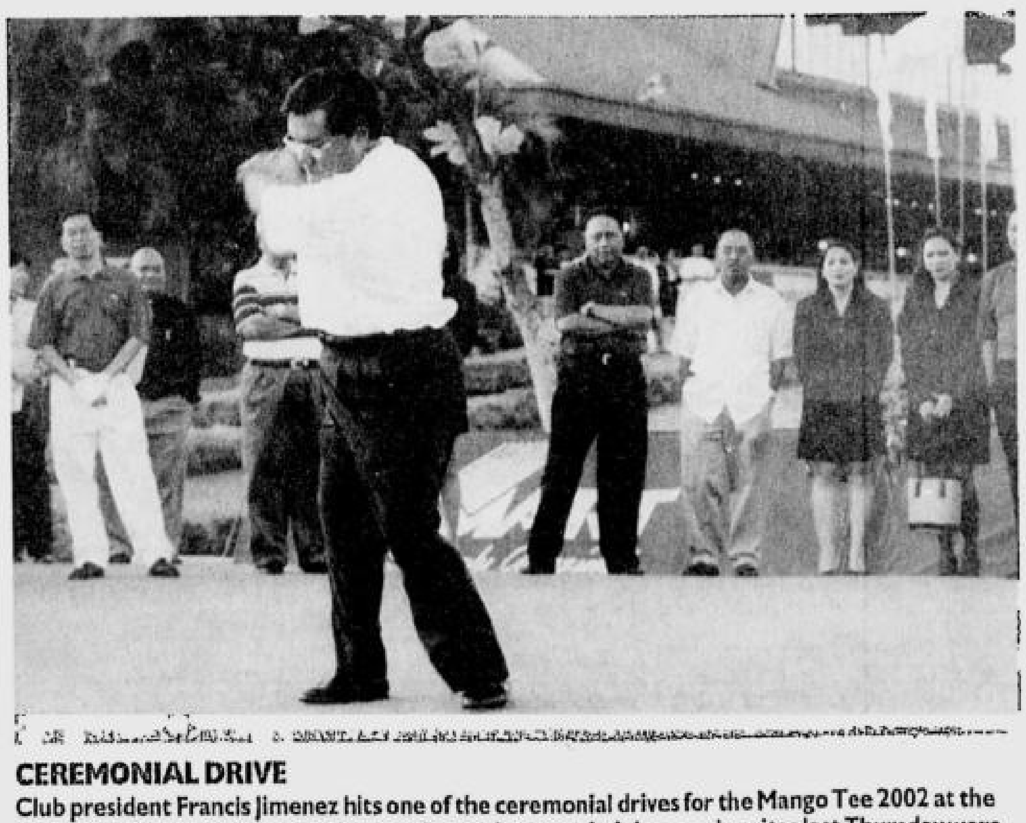
ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's 3rd leg of the Galleros de Manila 5-Cock derby fires off Feb. 13 with 75 quality fights on tap. Sponsor is Ninja Feeds. Hosts of this derby are Jimmyton Araneta, Tukaan's Emoy Gorgonia and Emil Chua of the Concrete Breakers entry. Veteran cocker Iking Araneta of the Hacienda Enara fame and lawyer Joey Mendoza of the Tagapo farms ruled the 2nd leg of the Galleros de Manila circuit held last Jan. 7 with their superbly conditioned fighters. With five derbies remaining, leading in the cocker of the year standing after two legs are Bobby del Rosario of Mangzee Farms with 7.5 points, followed closely by Iking Araneta with 7 points and right behind with 6 points apiece are the entries of Emmitt San Juan and the tandems of Philip Chiongbian and Bobby Velayo, lawyer Romero Yu/Peter Chua and lawyer Joey Mendoza/Dr. Jovy Oligane. Submission of weights between 1.8 kgs and 2.4 kgs is one day before the fight (Feb.12) from 1 p.m. and 10 p.m. For inquiries call Roligon at 833-22-75 or 833-16-38.

Volleyball seminar-workshop starts Feb. 16

VOLLEYBALL Solidarity, a group of UAAP, NCAA and national volleyball coaches, in cooperation with the UE Physical Education Department will hold a seminar-workshop in volleyball coaching on Feb. 16, 17, 23, 24 and March 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UE gym. Dubbed "The Success Formula on Winning in Volleyball Competition," its objectives are to equip coaches and teachers with proper psychological tool, teach them the latest trends in volleyball coaching and help them formulate and develop volleyball training programs. Volleyball coaches and PE teachers are invited to this seminar-workshop which will have for its resource person, Florentino "Kid" Santos, a former national volleyball team coach and currently president of Volleyball Solidarity. A registration fee of P1,750 will be charged each participant to cover the honoraria of speakers, lunch, training materials, certificates and miscellaneous expenses. For inquiries, call coach Santos at tel. 735-0233, cell (0919) 624-8472 or (0917) 445-5982.

Abu Dhabi jockey outshines Dubai prince

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates—An Abu Dhabi jockey came from behind to overtake the eldest son of Dubai's crown prince and win a 160-kilometer (100-mile) horse race in the desert here Thursday. Sherif Mohammed Abdullah Baja rode Domino to victory in the Presidents Cup endurance race, finishing the course in eight hours, 24 minutes and 57 seconds. "I thought I had a great chance when we started on the last loop. My horse was traveling well as he did throughout the journey," Baja said afterward. Baja came in 18 seconds ahead of Sheik Hamdan, one of the sons of Dubai's crown prince and defense minister, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Baja had started the final 18 kilometers (11 miles) of the course in second place behind Sheik Rashid bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the eldest son of the crown prince and the leader for most of the race. Baja overtook Sheik Rashid, 20, in the last four kilometers. Sheik Rashid then fell behind and Baja had to hold off a strong challenge from Sheik Hamdan, 19, to win. *AP*

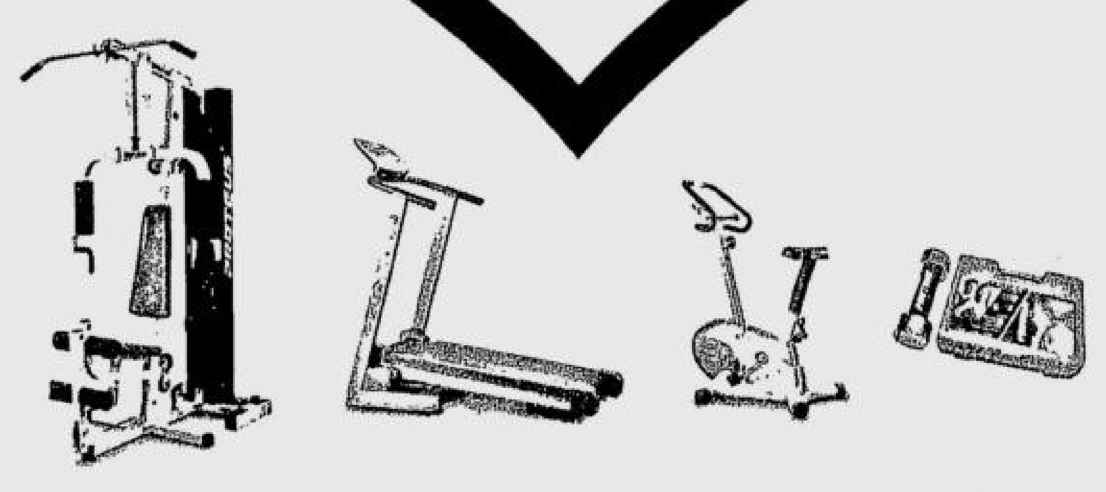


CEREMONIAL DRIVE

Club president Francis Jimenez hits one of the ceremonial drives for the Mango Tee 2002 at the Alabang Country Club course. Among those who attended the opening rites last Thursday were PCMS Smart head Anastacio Martirez, director for golf Jun Galindez, club chair Parley Ampil, incoming GM Larry Jalbuena, outgoing GM Romeo Laig, TSI president Greg Atienza, Mario Hada of Mitsubishi Motors, sports and games division manager Caloy Coscolluela and organizing committee officials led by Rene Garovillo. The Mango Tee ends today with popular band Spirit of 67 performing in the awards night.

This Valentine's Day we've got the right stuff to make your heart beat like crazy.

TOBY'S



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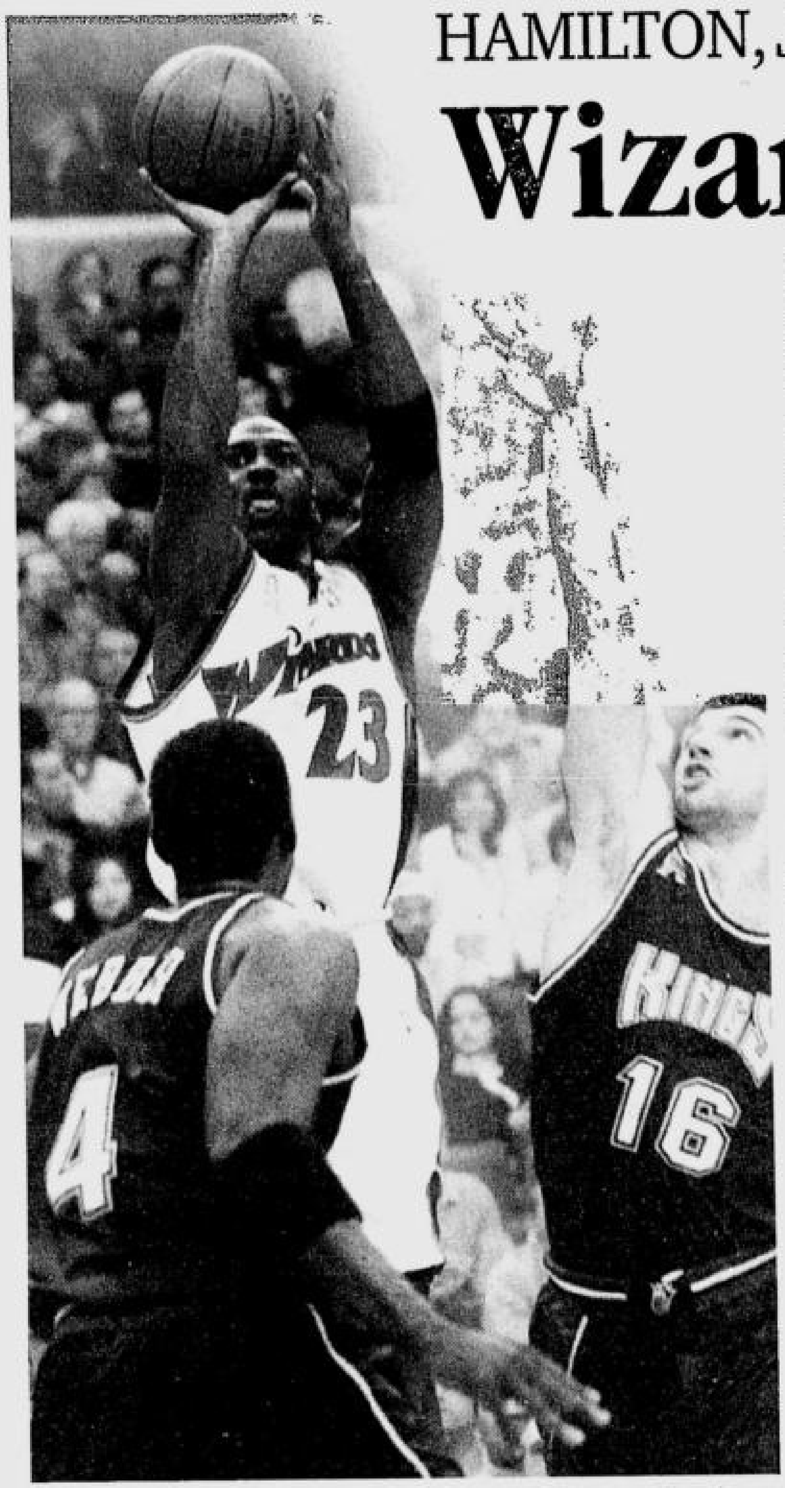

JORDAN soars for a jumper off Sacramento's Chris Webber (4) and Predrag Stojakovic. AP

HAMILTON, JORDAN STAR

Wizards mesmerize Kings

WASHINGTON —Richard Hamilton scored 33 points, and Michael Jordan had 25 as the Washington Wizards beat the Sacramento Kings, 108-101, in the NBA Thursday night.

The Wizards pulled away with a 24-7 run at the end of the third quarter to move five games above .500. They have won five consecutive games and seven of their past eight, and their 26-21 record is a 14-win improvement from 12-35 after 47 games a year ago.

The Kings, with the best record in the NBA, came out flat at the end of a four-game road trip.

Chris Webber returned to Sacramento's lineup after missing Wednesday night's game against Boston with a stomach flu and finished with 21 points and nine rebounds.

Peja Stojakovic added 16 points for the Kings, who rallied from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter.

Popeye Jones shot 8-for-8 from the field and finished with 18 points and 15 rebounds for Washington.

76ers 100, Hornets 93

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Allen Iverson scored 36 points, including two late driving baskets, to lead Philadelphia past Charlotte.

Matt Harpring added 16 points to help the Sixers improve to 25-24 and end a two-game losing streak.

Baron Davis led the Hornets with 23 points, while Lee Nailon had 18.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Washington 108, Sacramento 101; Philadelphia 100, Charlotte 93; New York 92, Atlanta 89; Detroit 105, L.A. Clippers 92; Milwaukee 107, Memphis 103; Toronto 80, San Antonio 74, OT. *AP*

O'Neal to miss All-Star game again

LOS ANGELES—Shaquille O'Neal went on the injured list Thursday because of pain in his arthritic right big toe and he will sit out the NBA All-Star game for the second straight year.

O'Neal was put on the injured list retroactive to Wednesday—before he missed the Lakers' 97-89 loss to the Chicago Bulls—meaning he'll sit out at least four more games before being eligible to return Feb. 19 against Boston.

O'Neal, who missed last year's All-Star game with an inflamed arch on his right foot, received the second-most votes of any player, 1,247,438, in fan balloting for this year's game, which will be played Sunday in Philadelphia. *AP*

Friendship cagefest set

THE PHILIPPINE Retailers Association and Burlington Industries Philippines Inc. are holding a cagefest among establishments in the retail industry from February to April at the Camp Crame gym in Quezon City.

Dubbed as the Burlington-PRA Friendship Cup, it will feature a men's basketball tournament, a ladies' free-throw shooting contest and a cheering squad competition. The league, which will star Feb. 17, aims to foster camaraderie and promote physical among employees of PRA members' firms.

BPI Inc. is one of the country's leading hosiery company manufacturing world-class brands such as Burlington, Puma and Bally while PRA is the 26-year-old organization of retails firms around the archipelago headed by Roberto Claudio of Toby's.

For inquiries, please call TEAM at 894-3576 to 77.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Edna Punelas and David Villanueva struck gold in the 200-m and 800-m, respectively, to power National Capital Region to the overall championship of the National Prisaa Championship in Pampanga.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana
By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Jackpot 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Sense of Justice

Race 2—1. Let Me Pass 2. Pride of Cebu

Race 3—1. Countess Diana 2. Foreign Exchange 3. Metronome

Race 4—1. May's Magic 2. Star Sapphire 3. Party princess 4. Turbo Carera

Race 5—1. Viva Rosa/Sekreta 2. Eden's Quest 3. Noah's Arc 4. Orphan

Race 6—1. Pistol Red 2. Uzisaki 3. War General

Race 7—1. Laguna Gold 2. Apple Splash 3. Velocity 4. Precious Stone

Race 8—1. Senor Perior 2. Court General 3. Shot Gun 4. Jerold's Dream

Race 9—1. Golden Dave 2. Secret Currency 3. Kingair 4. Tiger Eye 5. Baby My Beloved

Race 10—1. Cool Under Fire 2. So Generous 3. Precious Janina

Race 11—1. Ocean Dignity 2. Seiko Shita 3. Silver Dollar 4. St. Emilion

Race 12—1. Haz It All 2. Romario 3. Gold Prosperity

Race 13—1. High Roller 2. Agree to Agree 3. Hyperbid 4. El Duque 5. Gemstone 6. Chief Navigator

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA-Memphis vs UAB at 10:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r—6 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA Action at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA - San Antonio Spurs vs Toronto Raptors at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: AFC - NFC Pro Bowl tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. on ESPN

POOL: Mosconi Cup 2001 at 6 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Buick Invitational, Second Round at 1 p.m. (r—9 p.m.) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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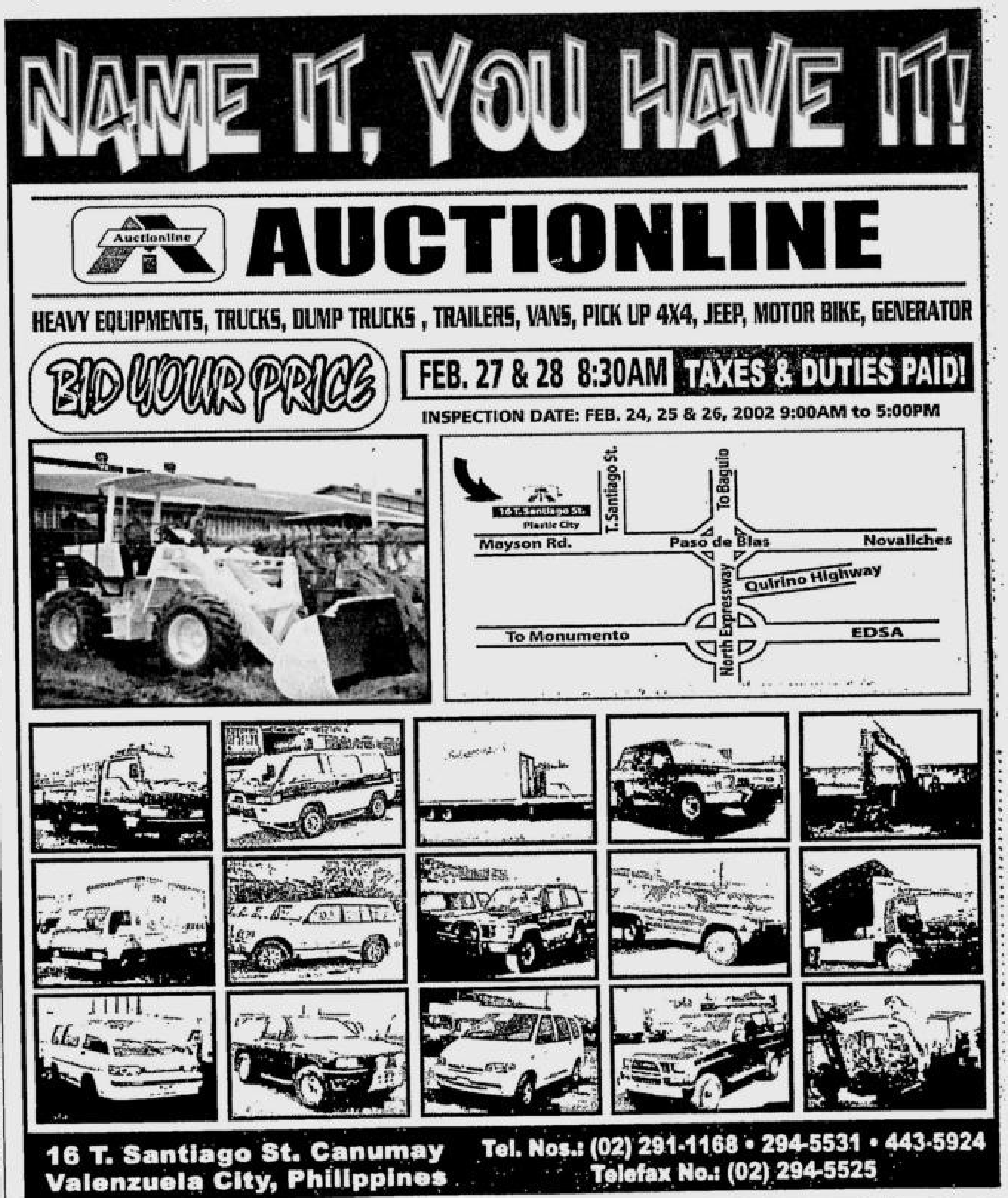

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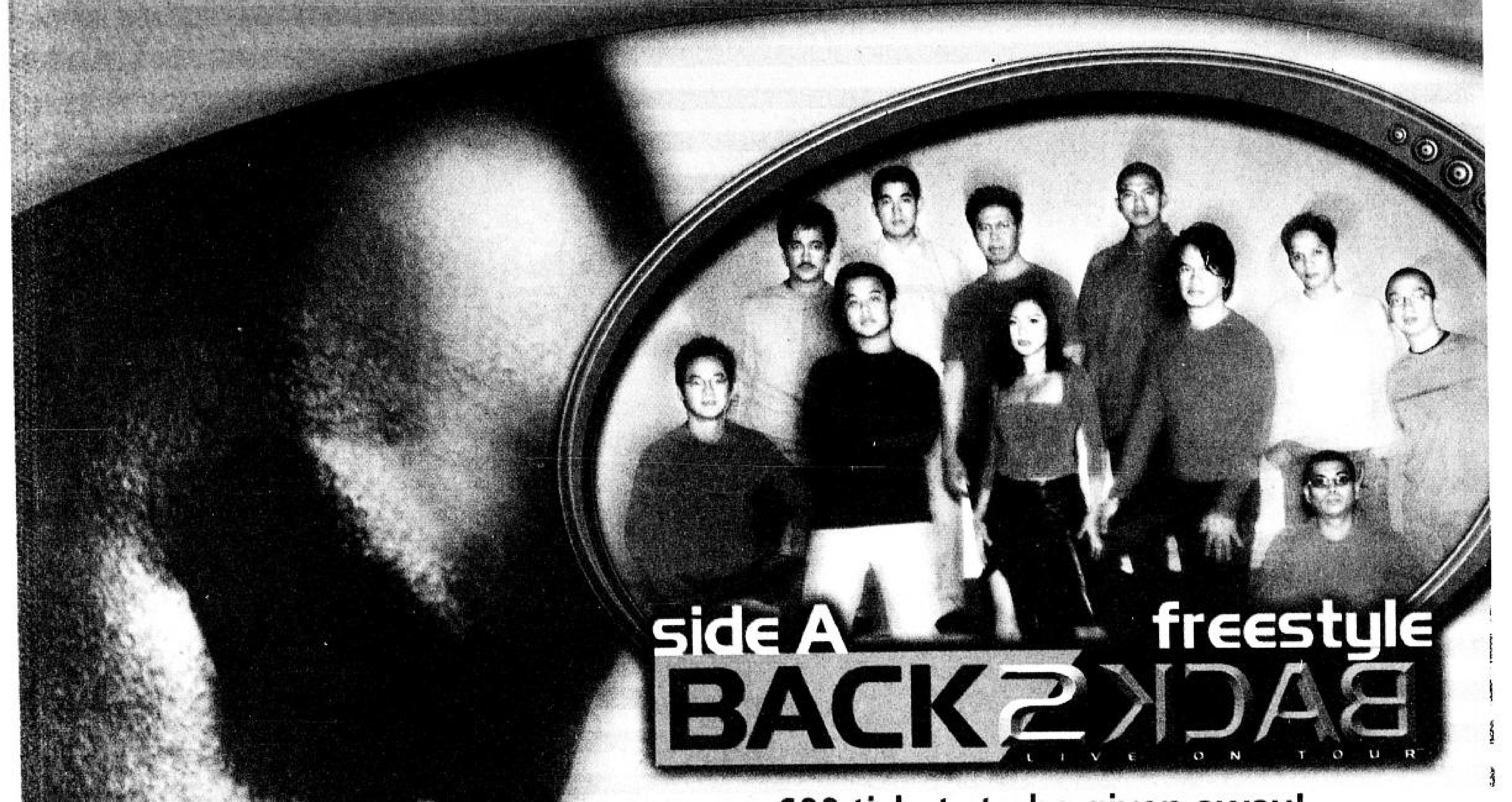
If you're SMART we've got Amazing Perks for you this February!



600 tickets to be given away!

Both SMART Gold & SMART Buddy subscribers have a chance to watch the Side A and Freestyle concerts for free! Feb. 8 & 9, Araneta Coliseum, Feb. 16, Cebu Sports Plaza, Feb. 23, Clark Expo.

100 tickets to Brian McKnight's Valentine concert to be given away!

If you're a lucky SMART Gold subscriber you could watch his February 14 concert in the Araneta Coliseum for free!

If you're a SMART subscriber you could get free tickets to some hot gigs. If you're on SMART Gold you just might catch Brian McKnight's Valentine concert featuring Regine Velasquez! Or you could get tickets to Side A and Freestyle's joint concerts! Lucky SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers will be randomly selected, so just wait for our call. Plus, all SMART subscribers can enjoy loads of other gigs and gimmicks all this month and throughout the year! We even have fantastic discounts and privileges for SMART Money Cardholders. So have an amazing February with SMART!

Here are the other SMART gimmicks for this month.

For more details, visit the SMART booth at each venue.

Manila

Jenine Desiderio: Romancing the Eastwood
Feb. 14, Eastwood. 50 reserved seats for SMART subscribers and one companion each.

Cebu*

***Red Report at Mi Vida**
Feb. 14 at Mi Vida, Cebu. 15 complimentary tickets for SMART subscribers. 10% off on food and drinks plus a free special drink for SMART Money Cardholders.

***Euphoria: Valentine's High Life Edition**
Feb. 14, High Life at Crossroads. 5% off on food and drinks for SMART Money Cardholders. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

Davao

Danni's Rhythm of Love featuring Spindrift
Feb. 13, Summit Bar. Free entrance for 40 SMART subscribers plus a free special drink.

Negros Oriental

Nahigugma Kuh ni Kuh Ledesma: Post Valentine Concert
Feb. 27, Bais Auditorium. Reserved seats for the first 250 SMART subscribers and one companion each.

Baguio*

***Valentine's Show at Pilgrims**
Feb. 14, Pilgrims Bar. 5% discount when you pay using SMART Money, guaranteed seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

***Gimbals**
Feb. 14 & 15, Gimbals. 5% discount when you pay with SMART Money plus guaranteed seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

***Amazing Nights at 18 B. C.**
All Saturdays of Feb. (9, 16, 23) at 18 B.C. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 10% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

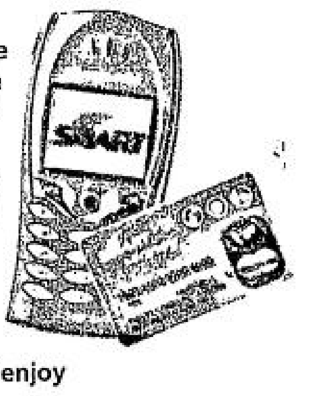
***Amazing Nights at Cactus Bar**
Feb. 14 & 15, Cactus Bar. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 15% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

Watch out for more free invites, only for SMART subscribers.

* Promo period: Feb. 9 to March 2, 2002. You can only avail of the discounts and special privileges on the dates indicated above.

* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0426 Series of 2002.

Plus, enjoy these great discounts and privileges when you pay with SMART Money!



SMART Money February Promos

- Marks & Spencer - Get a 15% discount on all wine purchases in all outlets (This excludes wines that are included in Marks & Spencer's in-store promo).
  Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0386 Series of 2002.
  Promo period from Feb. 6 - 28, 2002.
- Golden Blossoms, G/F NGR bldg. South Superhighway cor. Casino St. Palanan, Makati - One free box of Ferrero Chocolates for every one dozen flowers purchased.
  Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0474 Series of 2002.
  Promo period from Feb. 8 - 28, 2002.
- Mall Runner - This free service lets you make dinner reservations for two and pay in advance at Dish or at any Steak Town branch. Just call 845-2330 to 32 and enjoy a worry-free Valentines date!
  Offer good all this month at Dish, and from Feb. 10 to March 15 at Steak Town.

Fabulous SMART Money perks

- Vudu, Cebu - 10% discount on food and drinks.
- Suburbia Bar, Malate, Manila - No more consumable fee on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 50% off on the consumable fee on Saturdays.
- IO Family KTV, Jupiter St., Makati - Free one hour for every two hours paid (Except on Fridays).
- Bistro Remedios, Malate, Manila - 5% discount on food and drinks.
- Cable Car, Glorietta - 15% discount on food purchases.
- Café Havana, Malate - 5% discount on food purchases.
- Café Ysabel, San Juan - 10% discount on food purchases.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

On Target: Hiring Giuliani an insult to Filipinos /A22

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Filipino played vital role in the Yamashita trial /A24

More anti-kidnapping cops fielded in Manila

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICE have deployed two "oversized battalions" in the heart of Manila, particularly in the tourist district, to prevent kidnappings and to go after petty criminals.

Western Police District operations chief Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the two battalions will augment police forces in the Ermita, Malate and Binondo districts to ensure the safety of Manila residents and foreign tourists.

"We are deploying two oversized battalions (with 200 lawmen in each battalion) as reinforcements to the three stations responsible for keeping peace and order in the Malate, Ermita and Binondo areas," Bulaong said.

The National Capital Region Police Office has also ordered 24-hour patrols, with at least three policemen "at every street corner," Bulaong said.

"We want these places patrolled all the time to prevent kidnappers and local

MORE ANTI-KIDNAPPING/ A22

Airport auction stopped

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SALE through public auction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was temporarily stopped after the Court of Appeals ordered its suspension yesterday.

A representative of the appellate court served the TRO at 9:20 a.m. yesterday, exactly 40 minutes before the scheduled auction in front of the Parañaque City hall.

Associate Justice Conrado Vasquez Jr. granted Naia officials' petition for a temporary restraining order and prevented the Parañaque city government from putting the country's premier airport on the auction block.

Vasquez ordered the suspension pending the Court of Appeal's resolution on a motion for reconsideration filed by the Manila International Airport Authority, which operates Naia.

"Justice and fair play dictate that a temporary restraining order be issued in this case to maintain the status quo between the parties," said Vasquez,

Patricio Asoy, Mayor Joey Marquez's executive assistant for legal affairs, said the local government will file on Monday an urgent motion for the lifting of the TRO.

"They (Naia officials) can't just get away with their tax obligations to the city government," he told reporters.

The airport supposedly owes Parañaque about P650 million in land taxes since 1997.

The restraining order will allow airport officials to explore more options to prevent the sale of Naia. It also reduced to an empty boast the consistent threat of the Parañaque government to seize the airport property. Just last week, city officials said there was nothing that could prevent them from proceeding with the auction.

On Wednesday, airport general manager Edgardo Manda ordered airport security to resist any attempt by Parañaque to take over the airport.

AIRPORT/ A22

Fire destroys fireman's house

FIREMAN Rodolfo Santos was not around to see the house of his son go up in smoke yesterday morning in Pasig City.

The 40-minute blaze gutted the second floor of the two-story house on Jenny's Avenue Extension in Barangay Maybunga, fire investigators said.

Pasig City fire station desk officer SFO1 Rommel Regalario said the fire started about 9 a.m. at the master's bedroom where an overheating electric fan was reportedly left unattended.

Fire investigators pegged property damage at P100,000.

They said nobody was hurt in the blaze.

SFO1 Regalario said only the timely arrival of firemen prevented the blaze from going out of hand.

He added that low water pressure and the presence of onlookers made it difficult for firemen to battle the blaze.

"But barangay and police officials were there to make sure there would be no looting," Regalario said.

Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio urged residents to take the necessary precautions, especially since March, which is fire prevention month, is just around the corner. She noted March is that time of year when most fires break out in households. *Nelson F. Flores*

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Hiring Giuliani an insult to Filipinos

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THIS time, I go with Sen. Panfilo Lacson in his criticism of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Hiring former New York city mayor and crimebuster Rudy Giuliani as consultant on peace and order is an insult to Filipinos.

The Philippines does not lack for talents. In fact, our country is awash with talents ready to be tapped.

The President said she was tapping Giuliani upon the advice of her "international board of advisers" that includes former US Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Bosworth.

***

There's no doubt Giuliani was a "tower of strength" of New York during the dark hours immediately after the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center. America and the rest of the world admired his calmness.

An American of Italian descent, Giuliani cleaned up New York, particularly its Central Park, of muggers and other criminals.

There's no doubt Giuliani, who was cited by Time as "Man of the Year," should be idolized by his people and the rest of the world.

***

But the Philippines is not New York.

In the Philippines, the high crime rate is a result of abject poverty. In New York—before Giuliani's time—criminality was a social problem. *Maraming Kano na sira ulo.*

So, there's no comparison between New York and the Philippines. It's like comparing a mentally disturbed criminality to a criminal driven by poverty.

***

As to Giuliani's being a "tower of strength" in facing up to America's greatest crisis, there are 70 million Giulianis in this country.

Every Filipino is a tower of strength in his own little way! Imagine facing many crises every day—kidnapping and other crime crisis, leadership crisis, constitutional crisis, traffic crisis, transport crisis, money crisis, Abu Sayyaf crisis, etc!

The Filipino is the most resilient and courageous person in the world when it comes to facing a crisis. He can afford to make jokes about his crises.

***

Perhaps, the President was advised by the hired international PR firm to announce while on a visit to the US her mulling over the possibility of tapping Giuliani as the country's anti-crime consultant.

She would catch the attention of the US public if she mentioned Giuliani, a name that has become a legend, GMA was probably told by her American spin doctors. The President knows very well we can't afford Giuliani.

Our diminutive President did get to project herself tall to the US public, as well as those in Britain and Canada. If she was successful in her latest trip, how come she was able to bring home $1.2 billion in foreign investment commitments?

***

It was high time Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva was replaced by a much younger, more daring and brilliant man.

His possible replacement is Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo, an Ateneo de Manila bar topnotcher. Bernardo is the think tank of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

At 66, Villanueva has lost the energy to fight. A customs commissioner needs to fight corruption within the bureau. He has to fight the whims of politicians who want their boys given preferential treatment in customs. He has to fight insubordination of minor customs officials.

***

One of the reasons Villanueva was yanked out was he couldn't control Subic Bay Port Collector Billy Bibit who has been thumbing his nose at his superiors in Manila.

Villanueva is so afraid of Bibit and other insubordinate customs officials, he has adopted the "bahala-kayo-diyan" attitude toward them. This attitude means he leaves them to their own devices so long as they don't threaten his position.

Bibit, whose claim to his position is taking part in a plot to bring down President Erap (*kuno*, but it's not true), continues to defy orders for him to be transferred to another customs fort. Why? Because he's reportedly earning millions of pesos from smugglers at the Subic port.

***

Another customs official to whom Villanueva defers is Lourdes Mangaoang, Zamboanga City port collector.

Mangaoang's brother is allegedly involved in smuggling at the Zamboanga port. This has reached Villanueva, but he hasn't even so much as reprimanded Mangaoang. The woman collector is under the protective wings of Congressman Celso Lobregat.

Recently, a big shipment of smuggled rice from Vietnam was diverted to Zamboanga City because it was too "hot" to handle in Cebu, its original port of destination. The smuggled rice shipment is inside the warehouse of a certain Mr. Rojo.

***

If he finally gets the much-covered customs post, Finance Undersecretary Bernardo will have a hard time dealing with disobedient customs officials.

Many customs officials and employees, following the example set by Bibit, no longer obey their commissioner. They consider him *tautauhan* or a mere figurehead.

"Mon, everybody is demoralized at customs because the commissioner leaves them (insubordinate officials) alone. *Masyadong mabait kasi si* Titus," said an obedient customs official.

Masyadong mabait (too kind, accommodating) or *duwag* (cowardly)?

Bernardo must show that he's not afraid of Bibit, et al. Otherwise, they'll trample upon him like what they're doing to Villanueva.

MEGADIKE PROJECT

Benjamin Abalos hits 'loud minority'

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is convinced that the controversial P2.9 billion-road dike project can solve the perennial flood problem in key Metro Manila areas, according to Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

He said the President visited flood-prone areas in Taguig.

"The problem is there is a loud minority protesting against the project," he said. "In reality a silent majority supports it."

He said the President was convinced "by the wisdom of the project. She knows it would help the people."

The President went to the Lower Bicutan area the other day and was briefed on how the road dike project will help ease, if not eradicate, the flooding in Taguig, Pateros, Pasig, and Rizal, Abalos said.

ABALOS

He said the President found out that residents directly affected by the flood problem are "all in favor" of the project.

Abalos said that even the mayors of Pateros, Pasig, and Taytay in Rizal support the road dike.

Despite this support, Malacañang has suspended the construction of the megadike following a series of protests claiming that the dike will turn into wasteland huge pieces of prime property.

Abalos said the President wanted authorities to further study the project and explain it to residents.

Abalos explained the benefits of the dike in a meeting yesterday with residents of the areas that will be affected by the project.

Funded by the Japan Bank of International Cooperation, the project will give rise to a 9.8-kilometer floodway extending from Bicutan in Taguig to Taytay in Rizal.

Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano had previously complained that Taguig would lose 1,300 hectares worth about P1 billion if the project would be carried out.

Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga had accused Cayetano of instigating the suspension of the project supposedly through his father, administration Sen. Renato Cayetano.

"For the record, I'm not against the project itself," he told the Inquirer. "I'm just concerned with its alignment."

Residents have also pushed for the "realignment" of the road dike to avoid laying waste key portions of Taguig and nearby areas.

Abalos argued that yielding to the proposal would delay the project since authorities have to prepare another plan.

Cayetano asked: "How come the government seems to be in such a hurry to finish the project?"

The loan from the Japanese bank is good until 2007, giving authorities more time to further study the project, Cayetano said.

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Meanwhile, congratulations to the winners of the first grand draw of Automatic Centre's Gift Cheque Mania raffle promo last December 28, 2001!

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Winners of GC worth P20,000.00
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Winners of GC worth P10,000.00
Claro Ortiz, San Juan, MM; Jerome C. Abregor, Parañaque City; Edna O. Pabelonia, Quiapo, Manila; Ernesto C. Jaurigue, Parañaque City.

Winners of GC worth P5,000.00
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Advertorial

Drunken driver arrested for advance 'celebration'

By Philip C. Tubeza

FILIPINO-CHINESE Rong Shui Shen, 27, was arrested for celebrating the Chinese New Year in advance and for disturbing the peace in Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday.

The reveler claimed he was an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation after policemen flagged him down.

Rong, 27, of Binondo, Manila, faces charges of driving under the influence of liquor, driving without a license, and counter-flow driving, police said.

Rong and some friends were driving around in a white Nissan Cefiro (CPH-643) along C.M. Recto Avenue, near the Tutuban Center in Divisoria, around 3 a.m. yesterday with the siren of his car blaring.

Angry residents were awakened and called up the police to complain, while Rong circled the area thrice with his blaring siren.

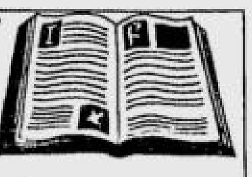
Members of the Western Police District (WPD) Station 2 in Tondo, Manila responded to the scene and flagged down the culprit.

But the drunken culprit let the policemen know that he was an NBI agent.

"*Okey na, okey na,* NBI *ako* (It's okay, it's okay. I'm an NBI agent)," investigators quoted Rong as saying after they arrested him.

Police were trying to confirm if Rong is indeed an NBI agent, but they promised to pursue charges against him.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Saturday, February 9, 2002
4th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 K 3:4-13**
Gospel: **Mk 6:30-34**

The apostles returned and reported to Jesus all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, "Go off by yourselves to a remote place and have some rest." For there were so many people coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a secluded area by themselves.

But people saw them leaving and many could guess where they were going. So, from all the towns they hurried there on foot, arriving ahead of them.

As Jesus went ashore he saw a large crowd, and he had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began a long teaching session with them.

Commentary

"What happens to you is 10 percent of life and 90 percent is how you respond to it." Community events, parish activities, seminars, encounters, even liturgical celebrations, homilies, talks bring pastoral agents to exhaustion. In our workplaces, in our offices, in our schools and homes we have so many projects, so many commitments, so much to do! Jesus invites his disciples to rest for a moment, to silence all the noise and to see things in perspective. To rest is not to stop in our mission but to recharge and renew our strength in order to do better be better. Without leaving behind our commitment, we need time to be with ourselves, enjoying with the presence of our companions in life and with God. Only those at peace with themselves will be peacemakers, only happy people can make people happy.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missiona-ries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

QC lifts tattoo ban

By Agnes E. Donato

MEMBERS of such gangs as "Sigue-Sigue," "Sputnik" and "Bahala Na Gang" may now freely sport their tattoos in Quezon City.

This after the city council passed on second reading a law repealing a 1964 ordinance, which banned the wearing of tattoos identified with notorious gangs.

But Councilor Ariel Inton maintained that in passing the measure, the council did not mean to encourage the youth to wear the tattoos or to join the gangs.

Inton explained that the "antiquated" Ordinance No. 5900, which was passed in 1964, violated the constitutional guarantee on the people's right to form and join organizations.

"The old ordinance was in the nature of a class legislation, which has become obsolete and unenforceable with the passage of the 1987 Philippine Constitution," Inton said.

He added abusive police officers would use the 1964 ordinance to allegedly work for the release of arrested tattoo-wearing suspects in exchange for money.

Inton stressed that it was still illegal to form organizations whose primary or sole purpose was to commit crime.

Inton said the new ordinance shall be retroactive and will benefit those accused of violating the old ordinance or those serving sentences for the same offense.

UE Student Catholic Action reunion

THE UNIVERSITY of the East Student Catholic Action (UESCA) will hold their grand reunion tomorrow, Feb. 10, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the CBCP Building at 470 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila.

Special guest will be Columban missionary Rev. Fr. Bernard Martin, chaplain of the UE Student Catholic Action in the 1960s and the 1970s before he was assigned to missionary work in Chile.

All UESCAns are invited to attend.

For details, contact Rudy Diamante at 527-4059 or 0917-9358789, e-mail *rsd730yahoo.com*, or Juliet Rafael at 847-1634 or 0917-8456497 *(jrafaelpacific.net.ph)*, or Lorie Santiago at 961-2099 or 0919-5826393 *(lorie pascualyahoo.com)*.

More anti-kidnapping . . .

(From page A21)

criminals from victimizing the foreigners visiting there, as well as the residents living there," he added.

He said Ermita and Malate needed more policemen since tourists tend to congregate there due to the presence of popular nightspots, while Binondo is home to Manila's Chinese-Filipino community.

"We cannot afford to let kidnappers and other criminals gain a foothold in this tourist zone," Bulaong said. "Allowing them entry will mean the end of Manila as a prime tourist destination in the Asia-Pacific region."

Bulaong said each lawman would go on an eight-hour patrol before turning over his watch to his reliever.

He said the lawmen would be held accountable for any criminal incidents in their area of jurisdiction.

If found guilty of negligence, delinquent policemen will be booted out of the service and stripped of his benefits.

Airport auction . . .

(From page A21)

Asoy said Manda was "over-acting" since there was no way that the local government would take over the airport even if it were sold in yesterday's public auction.

Parties, whose pieces of property were sold in public auctions, are given one year to redeem them, Asoy pointed out.

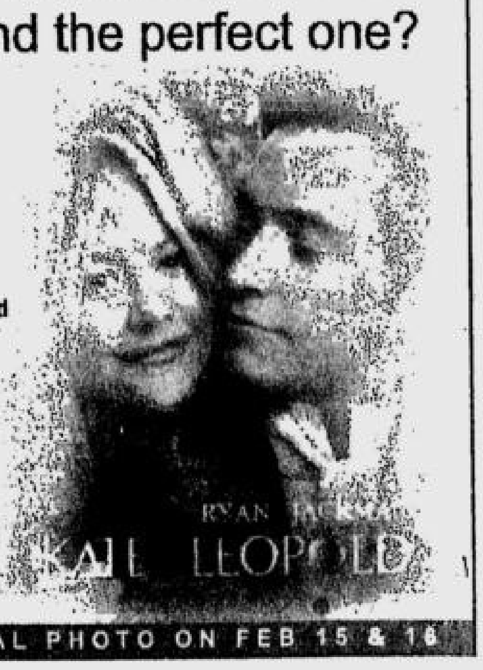
"Naia officials know the rules so I don't know why they're making all these threats," he said. "The problem is really simple. They just have to settle their dues and everything would be fine."

Despite the TRO, four pieces of property were sold in yesterday's public auction, which was supposed to include Naia, Asoy said.

Para¤aque bought the Metroplas Packaging Products Corp., Uttam's International Inc., Diamant Boart Phils. Inc., and Sentosa Park Properties Dev. Corp., which had a combined tax liability of over P20 million, according to Asoy.

He said yesterday's public bidding was only the first in a series of auctions aimed at generating at least P1 billion for several infrastructure projects in Para¤aque.

What Drives You to find the perfect one?



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9	REBULOSYONARYO
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3	
4	HUSTLER
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	KAULAYAW
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK

Caloocan
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2	KAULAYAW

Grand Central
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1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	KAULAYAW
6 (DOLBY)	KATE & LEOPOLD
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8	HUSTLER
9	MARSHALL DICK

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1 (DTS)	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	REBULOSYONARYO
7 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
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Ortigas
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2	KAULAYAW
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	VANILLA SKY

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Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Dilson
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1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	REBULOSYONARYO

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2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FROM HELL

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
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1 (DOLBY)	
2	

Berma
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1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HUSTLER
2	FROM HELL

CINEMA 2000

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1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
3 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
4	FROM HELL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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2 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	KATE & LEOPOLD

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Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN
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1	FINAL ANSWER
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3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HUSTLER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4 (DTS)	MARSHALL DICK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2556

1	FROM HELL
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	FROM HELL
2	WOLF GIRL
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	FINAL ANSWER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
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3	VANILLA SKY
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2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE AND LEOPOLD
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWAK DOWN
6	FROM HELL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	VANILLA SKY
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	FROM HELL

METRO EAST
#682-8103, #682-8193 #682-8199, 682-8280

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	FROM HELL
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	FROM HELL
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

IMUS
(046) 471-0188

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	VANILLA SKY
5	FROM HELL
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	BUKO PANDAN

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1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	GIRL FEVER

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KATE AND LEOPOLD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAULAYAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HUSTLER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	FROM HELL
ODEON-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ROBEN	KAULAYAW
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAULAYAW
REMAR	KAULAYAW
REMAR-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HUSTLER
B	KAULAYAW
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FROM HELL
CINEMA-2	VANILLA SKY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
CINEMA-3	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-6	FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-7	HUSTLER
CINEMA-8	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-14	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-15	ISANG PANAGINIP

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-4	FROM HELL
CINEMA-5	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-6	VANILLA SKY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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1	KAULAYAW
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	THE OTHERS
3	VANILLA SKY
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	REBULOSYONARYO
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	FROM HELL
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD
9	FROM HELL
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
12	

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FROM HELL
6	VANILLA SKY
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	VANILLA SKY
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	MARSHALL DICK
12	

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	THE OTHERS
2	FROM HELL
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	VANILLA SKY
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	KATE & LEOPOLD
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	REBULOSYONARYO
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	KAULAYAW
12	

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	FROM HELL
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	VANILLA SKY
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	

SM SOUTHMALL
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1	MARSHALL DICK
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	KAULAYAW
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10	

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	THE OTHERS
3	VANILLA SKY
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820905

1	KAULAYAW
2	VANILLA SKY
3	

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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3
4

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6389781-85

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'City with a heart' turns 4 years old

By Cher de la Rama
Contributor

CARLOS

VALENZUELA celebrates its fourth year of being a city during Charter Week this month.

The weeklong celebration features activities to be led by the mayor, Dr. Bobbit Carlos.

Centuries ago, Valenzuela was called Polo. In 1623, it became an independent town.

Through Executive Order No. 401, signed by President Carlos P. Garcia on July 21, 1960, Polo was divided into two, which gave way to the creation of the town of Valenzuela, named after Dr. Pio Valenzuela, a Polo native who played an important part in fighting the Spaniards.

Executive Order No. 46, signed by President Diosdado Macapagal on Sept. 11, 1963, consolidated and reunited the towns of Polo and Valenzuela into a municipality known as Valenzuela.

> According to Carlos' vision for the city, Valenzuela is a 'clean, peaceful and progressive city, where the people are patriotic, environment-friendly, healthy, honorable, united and have faith in God'

Often misconstrued as still part of Bulacan even these days, the town of Valenzuela was integrated, together with 12 other suburbs and 4 cities, into the Metropolitan Manila Commission on Nov. 14, 1975.

President Fidel V. Ramos signed into law the charter of Valenzuela City on Feb. 14, 1998, paving the way for the creation of Valenzuela as the country's 83rd city, and its 26th most highly urbanized city.

Small and large-scale industries thrived in Valenzuela in the last couple of decades, like those in metal, plastic, food products, wearing apparel, textiles, etc. This trend gave it the reputation of being an "economic miracle" in the past decade.

From the annual budget of 271.4 million in 1995, the city now has an annual budget of P1 billion.

People-centered

Mayor Carlos believes that all development adheres on people. Education, health, livelihood, peace and order, and moral regeneration are emphasized.

Carlos gives priority to projects that develop the skills of the people through education and training. In the past years, Valenzuela Polytechnic College, Computer Training Center, and Dr. Pio Valenzuela Memorial Library, among others, were constructed.

Scholarship programs are also offered to deserving students and non-formal education is offered to others. Training centers have been established for men and women, including the disabled.

The Museo Valenzuela and the convention Center have been operating since 1998 as cultural centers of the city.

Social services are offered the needy, especially abused women and children, through the Bahay Kalinga.

Carlos recently led the city government employees in taking a drug test as a first step in having a drug-free and healthy city.

Carlos also made sure that the city's controlled dumpsite system would eliminate the garbage problem.

The city's other projects and programs are for children and youth (Museo Summer Arts Programs, Mutya ng Valenzuela, continuous sports programs), adults (livelihood programs, employment assistance), and senior citizens.

'Puto' festival

To celebrate the feast of San Diego de Alcala in Barangay Polo, the Putong Polo Festival was held last November at the Polo Park. Activities included a parade, a bazaar, an exhibit, a variety show and awarding ceremonies for the city's makers of Putong Polo.

Putong Polo, a delicacy that was first made in the city in 1920s, received the Manuel L. Quezon Presidential Award. The city government launched the festival as an offering to San Diego de Alcala, the patron saint of the city's oldest church, which is 278 years old.

Carlos looks forward to the opening of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela in the coming schoolyear. The school will offer quality education to poor, intelligent students from the city's public high schools.

According to Carlos' vision for the city, Valenzuela is a "clean, peaceful and progressive city, where the people are patriotic, environment-friendly, healthy, honorable, united and have faith in God."

BIEN'S VIEW
This serene scene is one of the selected works of photographer Bien Bautista included in the coffee table photo book called "Esta Bien," to be launched on Friday, Feb. 15, at the Artspace Glorietta in Makati City. The launch is also the opening of a one-man exhibition by Bautista, a former magazine photographer who is the holder of the 2001 Master Photographer title from the Camera Club of the Philippines.

Filipino played vital role in the Yamashita trial

By Jerome Aning

ATROCITIES were recounted during the trial.

A HOUSE on Bilibid Viejo Street in Quiapo, Manila stood witness to one of the darkest hours of Philippine history. But it was also in this house where justice for the Filipino people was crystallized.

Philippine Army Maj. Glicerio Opinion owned the house where members of the prosecution panel and other government officials involved in the trial of Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, the last military commander of the Japanese forces in the Philippines after the country's liberation from the invaders, met to discuss the case. Later, after the trial ended, they still came to the house to chat about old times.

The house stands tall and proud today, and will stand taller and prouder if one of Opinion's grandchildren succeeds in her petition to the Manila city council to rename Bilibid Viejo Street after her grandfather.

As special assistant prosecutor, appointed by President Sergio Osmeña, Opinion had the distinction of being the only Filipino who participated in the trial. The five commissioners who heard the trial, Yamashita's six appointed defense counsels and the six other members of the prosecution team were American military officers.

For the lawyer-turned-guerrilla fighter during World War II, the Yamashita trial was a different kind of war to be won. But before the battle, Opinion had to embark on the staggering task of collecting and documenting evidence in the prosecution of Yamashita.

He also related to his children and his grandchildren, who grew up in the house on Bilibid Viejo Street, how he worked day and night interviewing victims of the Japanese atrocities and their families.

One of Opinion's granddaughters, Tina Testa, who was only 6 years old at the time of the trial, recalled how the family felt about the trial.

"It was really a great honor for him and our family that he was appointed to the prosecution panel because we know he would be getting justice for those poor people who died due to the enemy's brutality," she said.

Savagery

For the proceedings alone, Opinion had to file voluminous pieces of evidence to ensure the success of the prosecution. Most of the 386 people who testified and the 423 exhibits admitted in the trial came from the prosecution.

Of the many atrocities committed by the Japanese soldiers in Manila, Opinion could not forget and forgive the savagery committed on the women of Ermita and Malate. He recalled how women, even nuns, were rounded up, herded into several hotels and raped. Some of these women were never seen alive again.

As the only Filipino participating in the trial, Opinion's insights on the trial were sought much by local reporters for interviews, particularly when the trial would be held behind closed doors.

In 1964, when a reporter asked him about the commissioners who convicted Yamashita, Opinion had said, "Unless one is guided by an absolute sense of fairness, the task (of judging) becomes a most difficult one."

The prosecution team sought first-hand accounts of the most infamous Japanese atrocities in Manila—the massacre at De La Salle University, the Fort Santiago bloodbath, the murders of Vincentian priests in the San Marcelino Church, and the killings of civilians who sought refuge at the German Club.

One of Opinion's memorable presentations in the trial was his direct examination of 11-year-old Rosalinda Andoy, a resident of Magallanes Street in Intramuros. She was the only one left alive in a heap of about 300 people, including her brother and aunts, who were killed by retreating Japanese soldiers. Andoy herself suffered 38 body wounds, three of them from bayonets that pierced her from the back to the chest.

When an American patrol group later found Andoy, she was still clinging to her mother's corpse in the ruins of the old Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros.

In the trial, Andoy showed her scars to the commission. She wept bitterly as she recalled her bleeding mother repeatedly telling her, "My child, be good always," until she died.

Human torches

Andoy's heart-wrenching testimony apparently left Yamashita unperturbed. Newspaper reports of the trial said Yamashita, dubbed the "Tiger of Malaya" because of his swift and easy conquest of British Malaya in 1942, did not look at Andoy while she was on the witness stand. He was toying with a pencil throughout the testimony that left

FILIPINO/ A26

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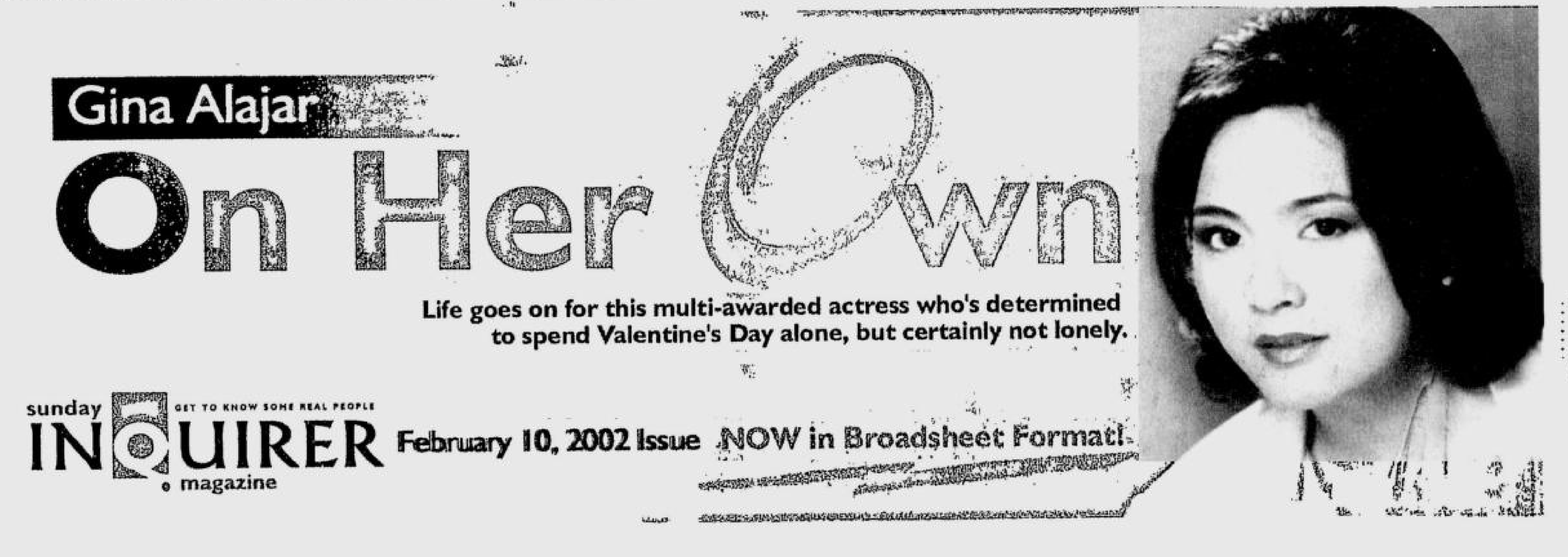
Gina Alajar
On Her Own
Life goes on for this multi-awarded actress who's determined to spend Valentine's Day alone, but certainly not lonely.
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La Salle celebrates IT Week

LA SALLE Green Hills celebrated its IT Week Feb. 4-8, 2002.

The highlight of the event included workshops, seminars, a Web design contest, and exhibits.

Featured in the exhibits were products that ranged from notebook computers, free Internet cards, Internet access, cell phones, etc.

The event was in line with the school's vision of using information technology to enhance the learning of its students.

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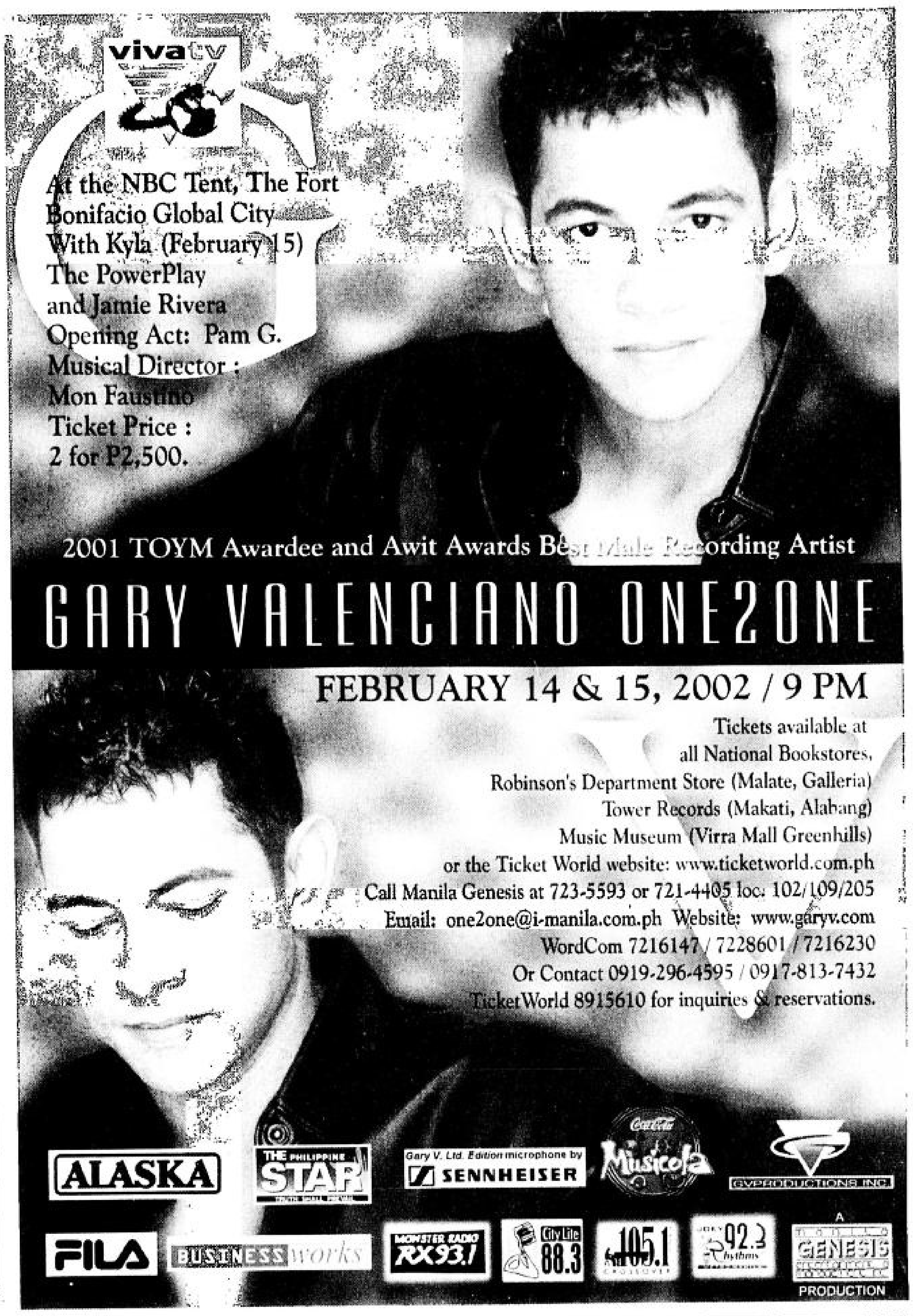
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Traffic rerouted in Mandaluyong

MANDALUYONG City will be celebrating its 57th Liberation Day, and 8th Year of cityhood tomorrow.

City officials announced that traffic will be rerouted tomorrow to give way to parades in the city.

All north-bound vehicles will take the south-bound lane of Gen. Kalentong Street.

All vehicles bound for Pasig City should make a left at General Kalentong Street and turn right at Haig Street.

Shopping Japanese tourist robbed

By Philip C. Tubeza

A DAY after two thieves were arrested inside the Robinson's Place mall in Ermita, Manila, a 46-year-old Japanese tourist lost more than P50,000 to thieves as he was shopping with a Japanese friend in the same mall Thursday.

Akira Matsushita, currently staying at the Networld Hotel on the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Perla Street in Pasay City, lost 132,000 yen or P50,582 about 4 p.m. Thursday at the Robinson's Department Store on the mall's second floor near the M. Adriatico Street entrance.

SP04 Roberto Gutierrez, of the Ermita police station, said Matsushita had just bought some articles and put the money in his black bag before he continued window-shopping with his friend, Toshikazu Nikinoto.

Matsushita told investigators he did not notice anyone open the bag.

A few minutes later, the victim noticed that his bag was open. When he checked it, he was surprised to find out that his money was gone, Gutierrez said.

The victim then went to the mall's security office and the officials there referred them to the Ermita police.

The theft happened a day after two men were nabbed for trying to steal a P5,000 cellular phone from a government employee inside the mall.

Police arrested Ranni Alamada, 21, a Batang City Jail gang member, of Globo de Oro Street, Quiapo, and Michael Baraqui, 25, a vendor, of Magallanes Street, Intramuros, Manila.

The two men were caught trying to steal the cell phone of Evelyn Ocampo, 36, of Sta. Ana, Manila.

The suspects allegedly tried to secretly open Ocampo's bag inside the mall about noon Wednesday when the victim noticed what they were doing and had them arrested.

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2 KATE & LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 KATE & LEOPOLD in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 VANILLA SKY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 KATE & LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 VANILLA SKY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 FROM HELL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 KATE & LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 MARSHALL DICK Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND		4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 9 PM Onstage	4 FROM HELL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Events Ad Box
Week of Feb. 11-17, 2002

VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER

- Romancin' G4 at Glorietta 4 Park

Feb. 11 / 6 pm Vina Morales
Feb. 12 / 6 pm Side A

- Comedy Club at Greenbelt Mall

Feb. 12 / 7 pm Jon Santos
Feb. 13 / 7 pm John Lapuz

- Moonlight Serenade at Greenbelt 2

Feb. 14 / 7 pm Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15 / 7 pm Ariel Rivera

Chinese New Year at the Glorietta Activity Center

Enjoy a Chinese food festival from Feb. 12 to 16, 2002 featuring sumptuos dishes as presented by the following hotels: Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati Shangri-la, New World Renaissance, Mandarin Oriental Manila and The Peninsula Manila.

ALABANG

ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS

Feb. 8-17
JO-LIZA FURNITURE FAIR
Activity Center

Feb. 10
APO HIKING SOCIETY
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VALENTINES DINNER SHOW -
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For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002

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& Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)

USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)

Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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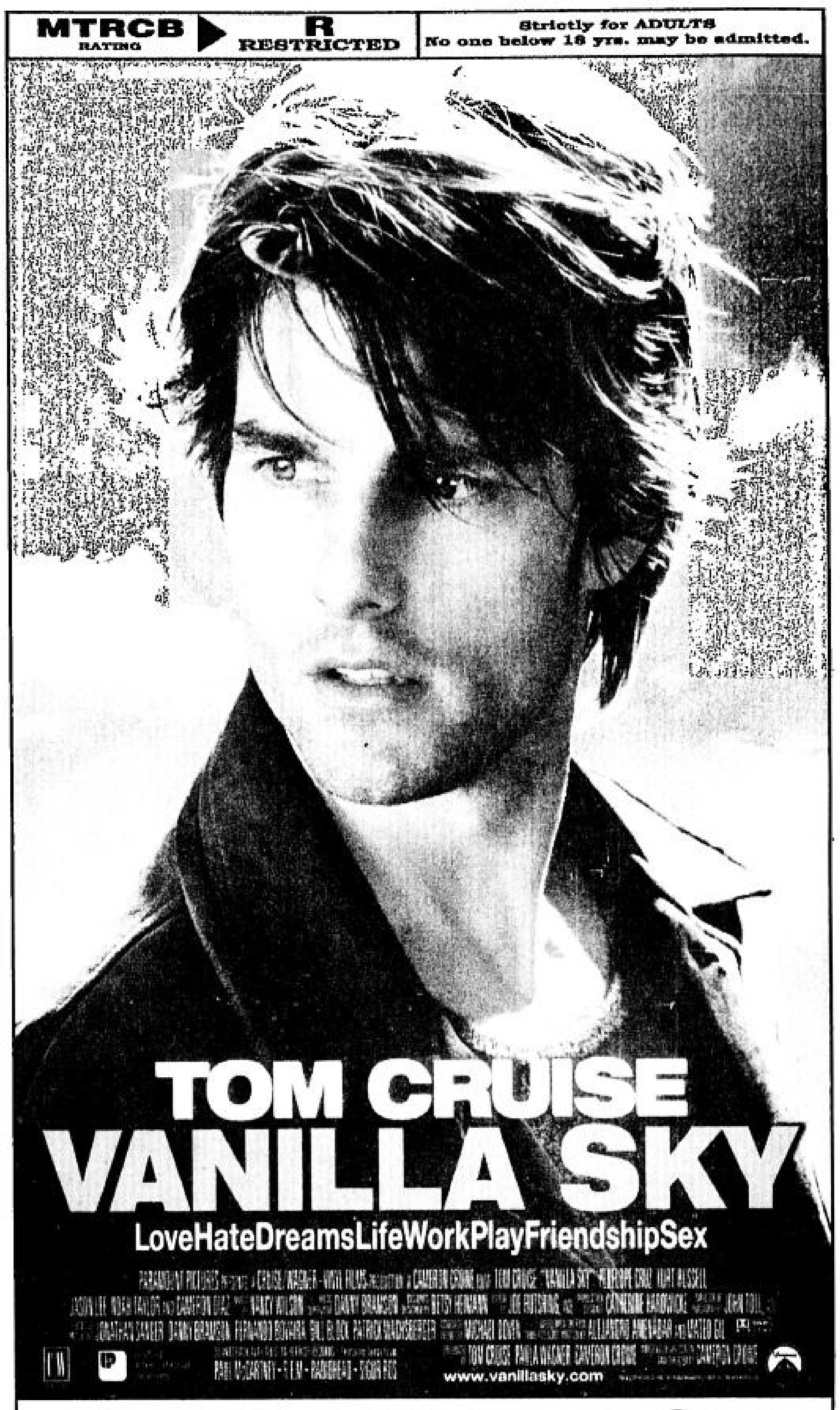
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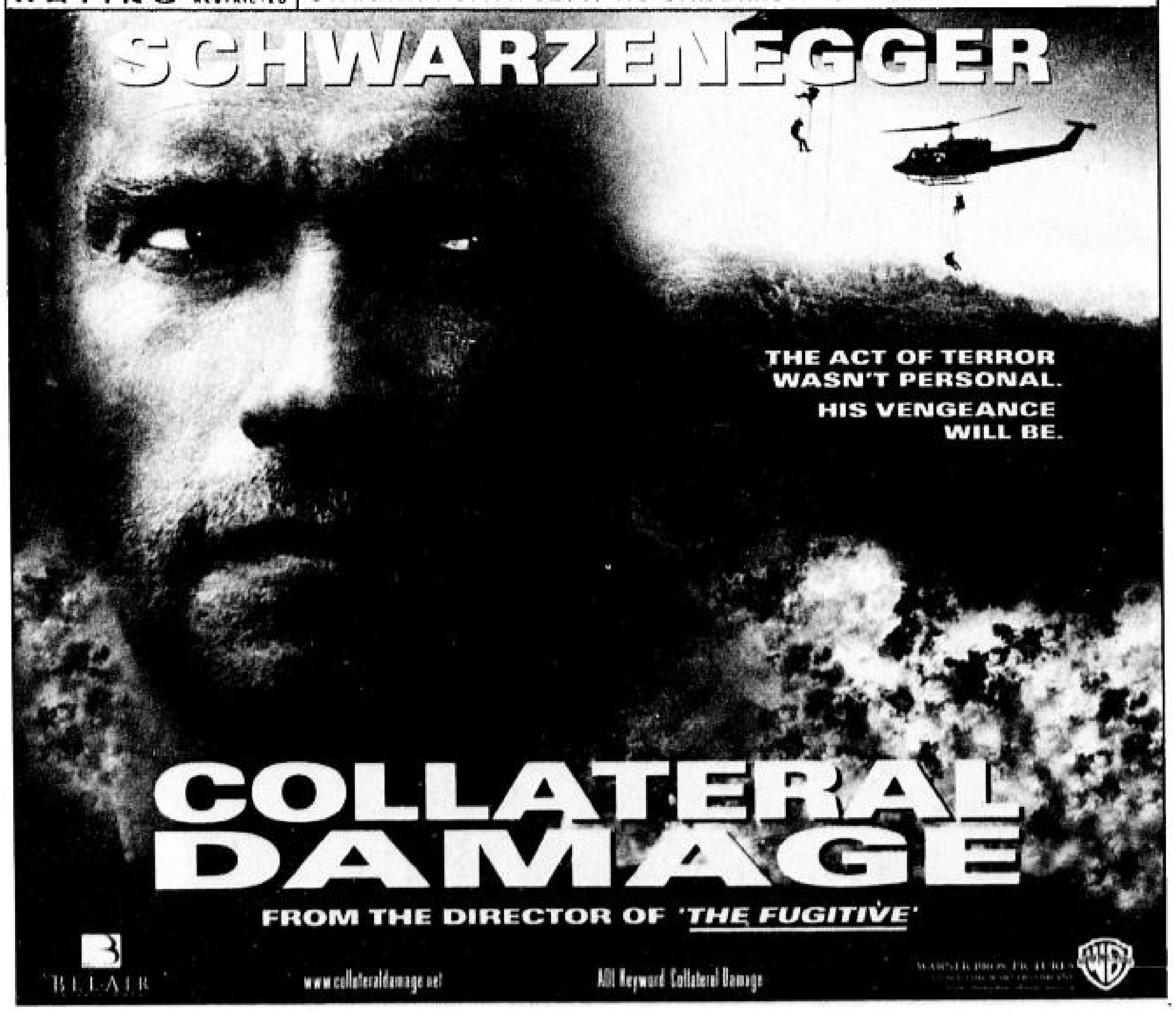
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WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Filipino played vital role in the Yamashita trial

(From page A21)

the audience, including President Osmeña, in tears.

Opinion also quizzed the movie star Corazon Noble, who sought refuge at the Red Cross office on Taft Avenue corner Isaac Peral Street (now United Nations Avenue) during the battle. She recounted how Japanese soldiers stormed the compound, shot her in the arm and stabbed her nine times with bayonets. She said the soldiers did not spare the 10-month-old son she was carrying, whom they stabbed three times with bayonets.

The prosecution also gathered evidence of the infamous "human torches"-residents tied to posts, drenched with gasoline and burned alive.

Opinion and the other prosecutors also gathered testimonies about teenage girls in Ermita who were raped by the Japanese soldiers and then stabbed with bayonets in their genitals.

The prosecution listed 123 individual charges in the bill of particulars, including numerous counts of murder, rape, torture, arson and other allegations of brutality and sadism the Japanese forces committed against civilians.

Most of the atrocities were committed in Manila, but other cases happened also happened in Pasay, Mandaluyong, Batanes, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Palawan, Cebu and Leyte.

Denial

The trial of Yamashita, which opened on Oct. 8, 1945, would dominate the headlines of the country's newspapers for the next two months. The courtroom, in the hastily repaired residence of the US High Commissioner on Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard, was often jampacked with spectators.

In his defense, Yamashita, who was about 200 kilometers away from the carnage and destruction at Manila, denied ordering the massacre of civilians. He also denied receiving any report of mistreatment of the civilians by Japanese soldiers.

He claimed he ordered all soldiers under him to abandon the city without battle, but some of the officers who were not under his authority apparently refused to follow his order.

Yamashita also said he wanted to concentrate on the defense of Northern Luzon, hoping he could put up enough resistance to forestall the advance of the Allied forces to his Japanese homeland.

On Dec. 7, 1945, the commission found Yamashita guilty of all charges and sentenced him to die by hanging.

Opinion recounted later that Yamashita bent his head slightly as his personal interpreter translated the verdict, which was read in English, to Japanese. Not a muscle moved in the general's broad face as the full impact of the commission's decision sank in.

Only the whir of the movie cameras recording the momentous event could be heard above the hushed whispers of the spectators, Opinion related later.

After the sentence was read, burly American military policemen led Yamashita and his military and civilian retinue out of the courtroom.

Execution

The day after the conclusion of the Yamashita trial, Maj. Gen. Russel Reynolds, presiding officer of the military commission, wrote Opinion a letter of appreciation for his performance in the trial. Reynolds said in the letter: "The Commission is well aware of the physical and mental strain to which you were subjected during the course of the trial, especially with respect to preparation, as well as the high standard performance of duty during the trial sessions."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur awarded Opinion the US Army Commendation Ribbon on Aug. 5, 1946. The award cited Opinion for displaying "outstanding professional ability, perseverance and foresight" in the conducting the prosecution of the war criminals.

The "Tiger" was executed in the early morning Feb. 23, 1946, in Camp Eldrige in Los Baños, Laguna.

Again, Opinion was one of the few Filipinos present in the execution. He said that up to the last hours of his life, Yamashita was proud, never begged for clemency, and did not weep. Even his ascent on the 13-step stairway to the gallows did not appear to make him weak in the knees.

The complete proceedings of the case can be found at the Philippine Supreme Court Library. The mimeographed trial records consist of 4,055 pages divided into 37 volumes.

Critics have claimed that the trial was rigged, that the judgment was already made before the trial began, and that Yamashita was used as a "scapegoat" and "sacrificial lamb" to satisfy the public's cry for vengeance against Japan.

Other historians would blame Rear Adm. Sanjo Iwabuchi of the Japanese Manila Naval Defense Force, who disagreed with Yamashita and wanted to defend Manila to the end, and even MacArthur himself, for ordering the relentless and unnecessary bombing of the city.

Family driver

But Opinion, who did not show any bias against the Japanese before the war, left the debate to historians and jurists. As Japanese forces invaded neighboring Southeast Asian countries, increasing the racial bias against the Japanese, Opinion, who was then a law professor at the Manila Law College, kept two Japanese servants-a driver and a gardener.

To everyone's surprise and consternation, the Japanese driver turned out to be a full colonel of the Japanese Imperial Army, and was probably an intelligence officer, said Opinion's granddaughter. He even visited Opinion in his house and gave the stupefied family a sack of rice as he asked Opinion to allow him to leave and thanked him for his kindness.

That was the last time the family saw their Japanese driver.

When the war broke out, Opinion joined the guerrilla movement and held the rank of captain in the Ramsey, ECLGA and PQOG guerrilla units. He variously served as liaison officer, propaganda agent and financial supply officer.

His children Glicerio Jr. and Rosario joined their father in the underground resistance. A fine arts student, Rosario was often tasked to draw maps showing Japanese targets.

In April 1945, Opinion reopened his law office in his house and resumed legal practice, which has been suspended since Dec. 6, 1941. He also returned to teaching the following month. But on Sept. 17, 1945, Opinion was commissioned as major and was called to active duty two days later.

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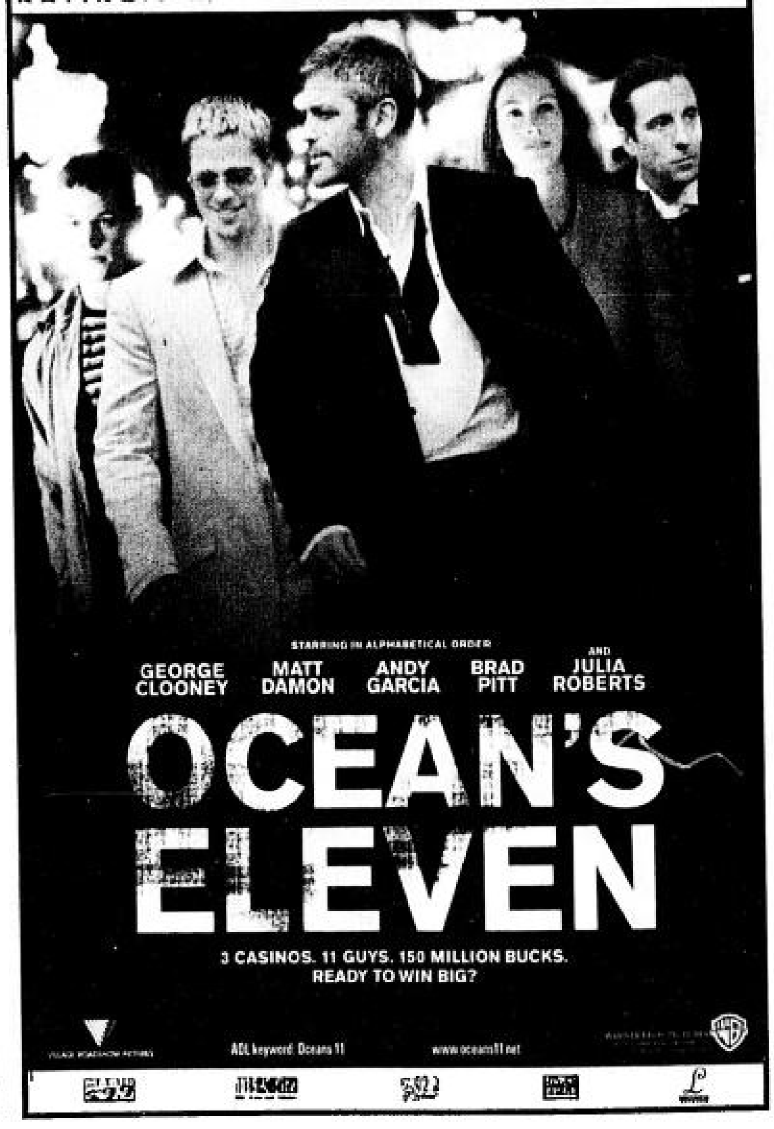

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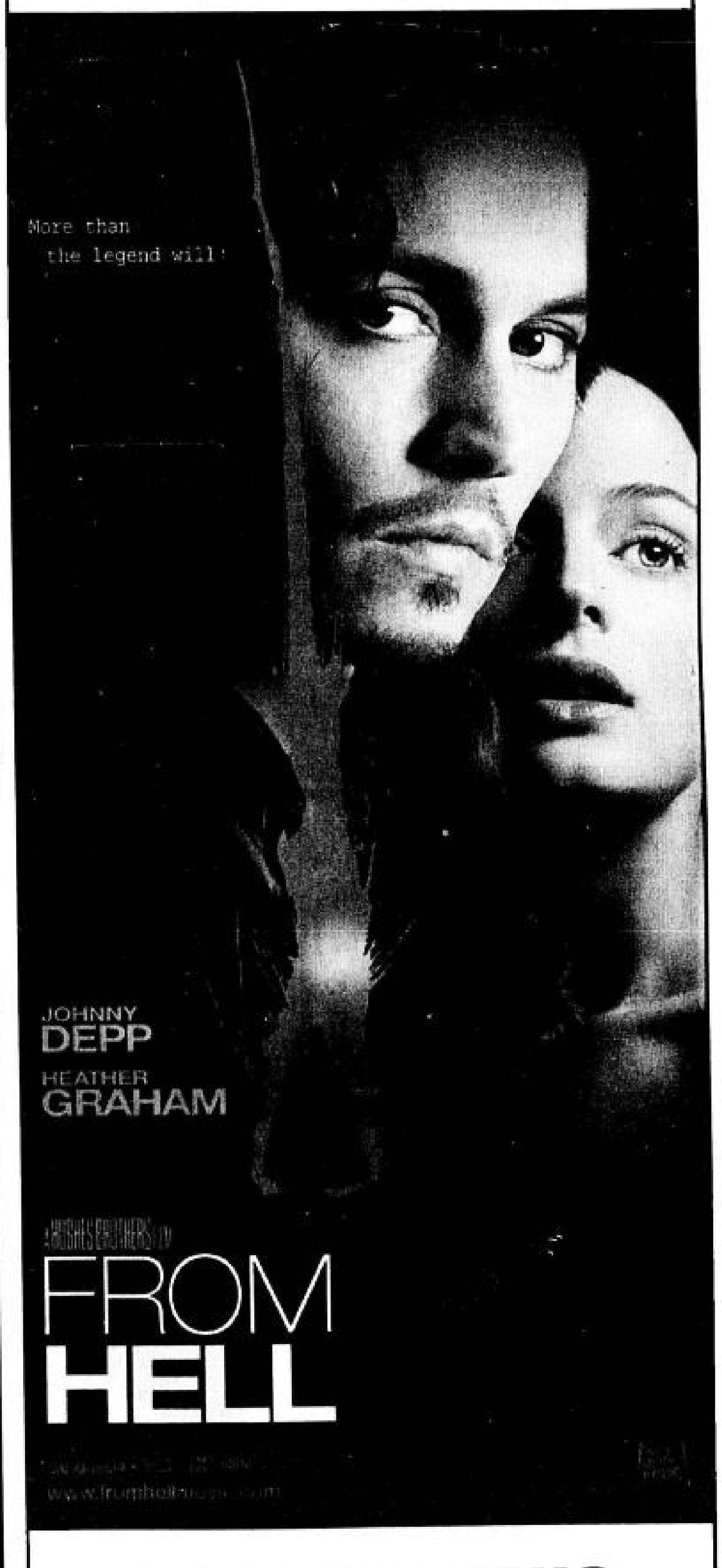

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FROM HELL - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	MARSHALL DICK - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10	VANILLA SKY - R 18 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

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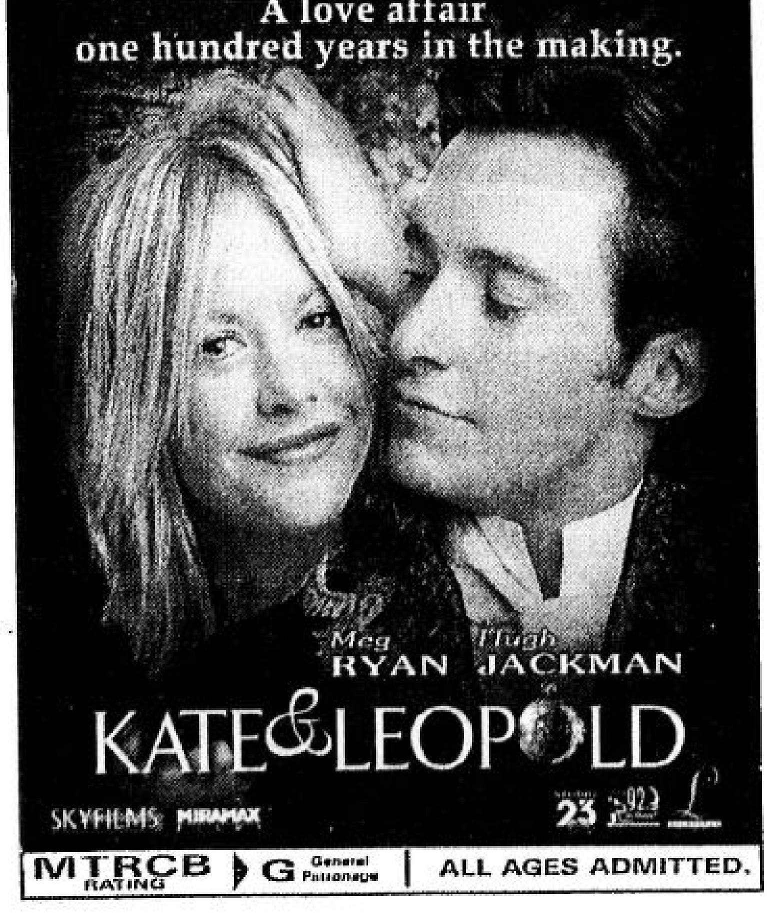

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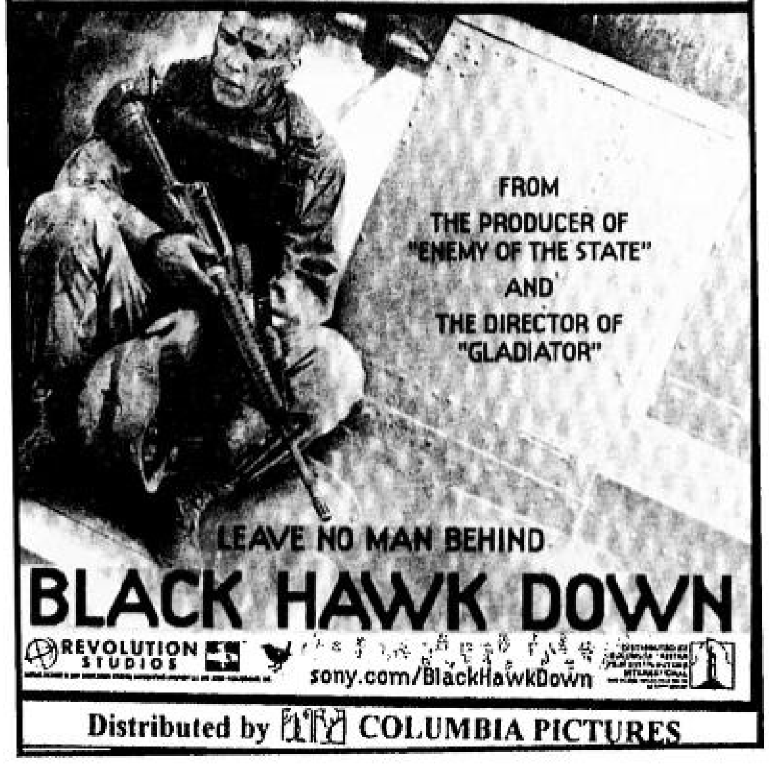

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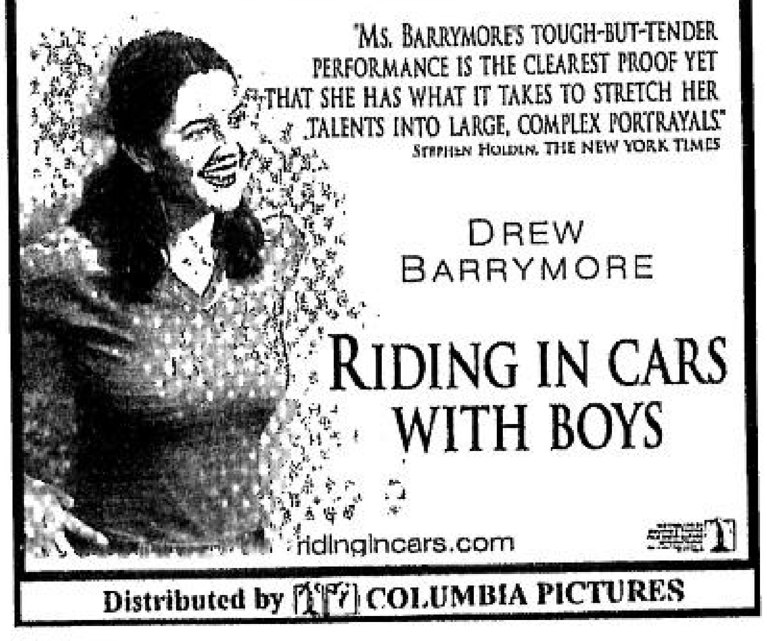
RICHARD SCHICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE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STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES
DREW BARRYMORE
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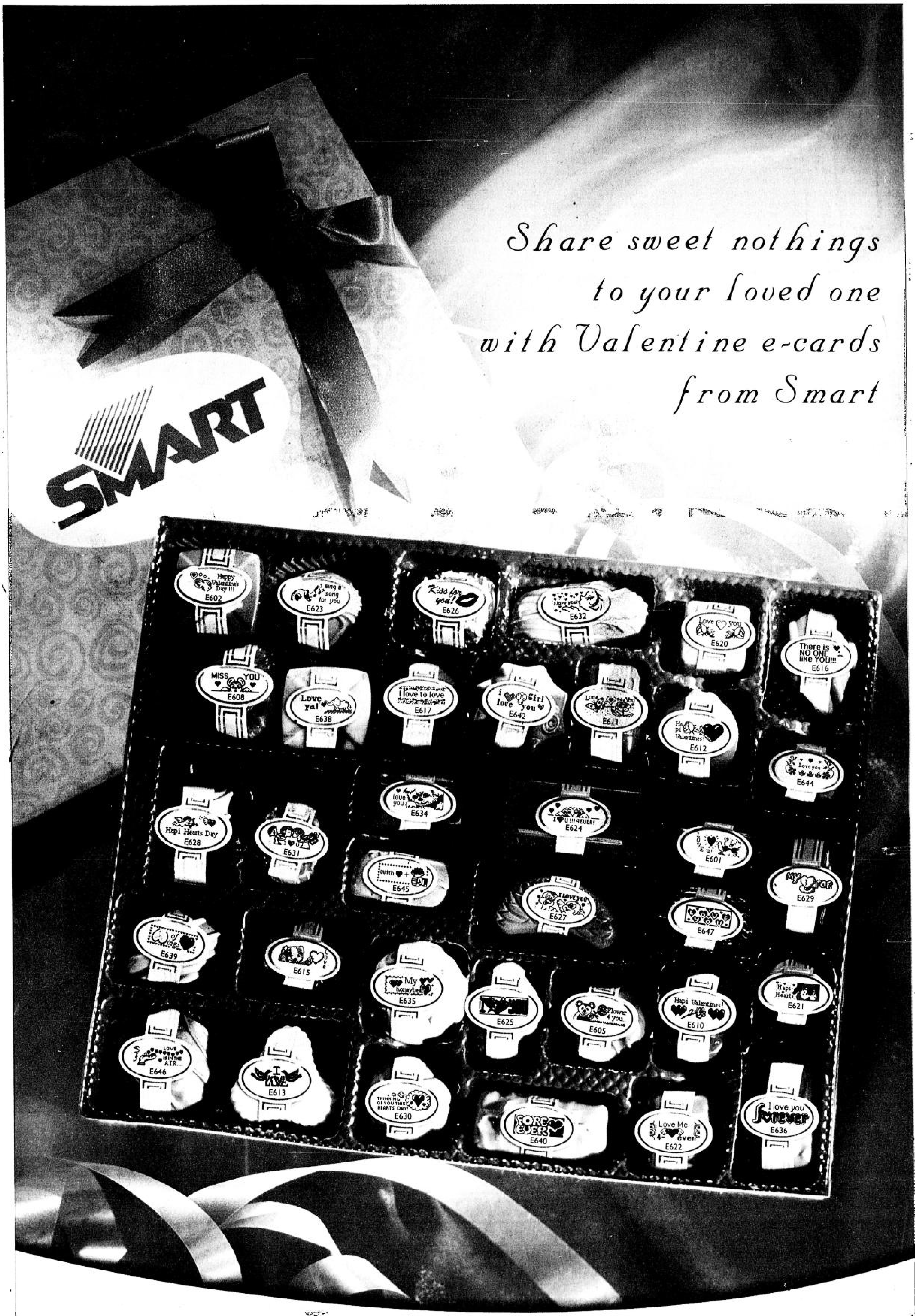
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With ♥ + E645
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E647
E639
E615
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

Gov't banks cut prime lending rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

STATE-OWNED banks have started bringing down their lending rates drastically as they now charge prime borrowers only 9 percent following an order from the Department of Finance two weeks ago.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said that Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines now charge their prime borrowers only 1.5 percentage points above the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate of 7.501 percent.

Both banks used to charge 11 percent on loans to prime borrowers.

"I hope other banks would follow the lead of Land Bank and DBP and reduce the spreads of their lending rates as these two banks have done initially for their prime borrowers," Camacho said.

Prime borrowers include multinational companies and big local firms with a good credit standing and have a lesser chance of defaulting on their loans.

"If banks could bring down their lending rates significantly, it would be better for businesses and eventually help improve the local economy," Camacho explained.

The average lending rate of fifth largest Land Bank and seventh largest DBP still stood at 12.5 percent yesterday, the same level as the past two weeks, based on a daily informal survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

This means both banks have yet to reduce the rates they charge on loans to individuals and small companies.

Based on the Bangko Sentral survey, four private banks even charge lower rates on their prime borrowers.

These were Singapore-owned United Overseas Bank with a prime rate of 8.31 percent, HSBC with 8.5 percent, DBS Bank and parent firm Bank of the Philippine Islands with 8.75 percent.

Banks charging prime borrowers a rate lower than 10 percent included Standard Chartered Bank with 9.12 percent, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. with 9.5 percent, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi with 9.3 percent. Foreign lenders Citibank, Deutsche Bank and ANZ Bank charge 9.75 percent.

Among those still charging even their prime borrowers with higher rates included Traders Royal Bank with 14.5 percent, International Exchange Bank with 12.75 percent, East West Bank with 12.62 percent, TA Bank with 12 percent and Asia United Bank with 12.25 percent.

Traders Royal Bank continued to have the highest recorded prime lending rate of 15 percent based on the central bank survey.

Banking sources, however, note that lenders report a much lower rate to the Bangko Sentral than the charges they actually charge particularly on small borrowers. On the average, individuals and small firms still contend with lending rates ranging from 16 to 18 percent.

A trader from a foreign bank pointed out that a drop in treasury bill rate did not necessarily mean a one-to-one decline in lending rates.

Stocks end 4-day losing streak

SHARES closed marginally higher yesterday on late bargain hunting led by Filinvest Land Inc. after the firm disclosed more details about its P1.2-billion bond offer, convincing investors that the offer would be good for the company and its shareholders.

However, the low turnover suggested investors were still unsure about the direction of the market, with the current consolidation likely to continue next week as other regional markets pause for the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations.

"Judging by the volume, a lot of people are not yet convinced on what to do in the market, whether to sell or buy . . . Today was a preview of the slackening of trading expected next week," said Efren Cruz, fund manager of The Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines.

The Philippine stock index climbed 4.41 points, or 0.33 percent to end at 1,344.35 points, breaking a four-day losing streak.

However, the All Shares Index was down 6.91 points, or 0.94 percent, at 728.89 points.

The main index was down 3.03 percent, or 41.96 points, week on week. But despite its losses, it was up 15.09 percent so far this year, making the Philippines one of the best performing markets in the region this year.

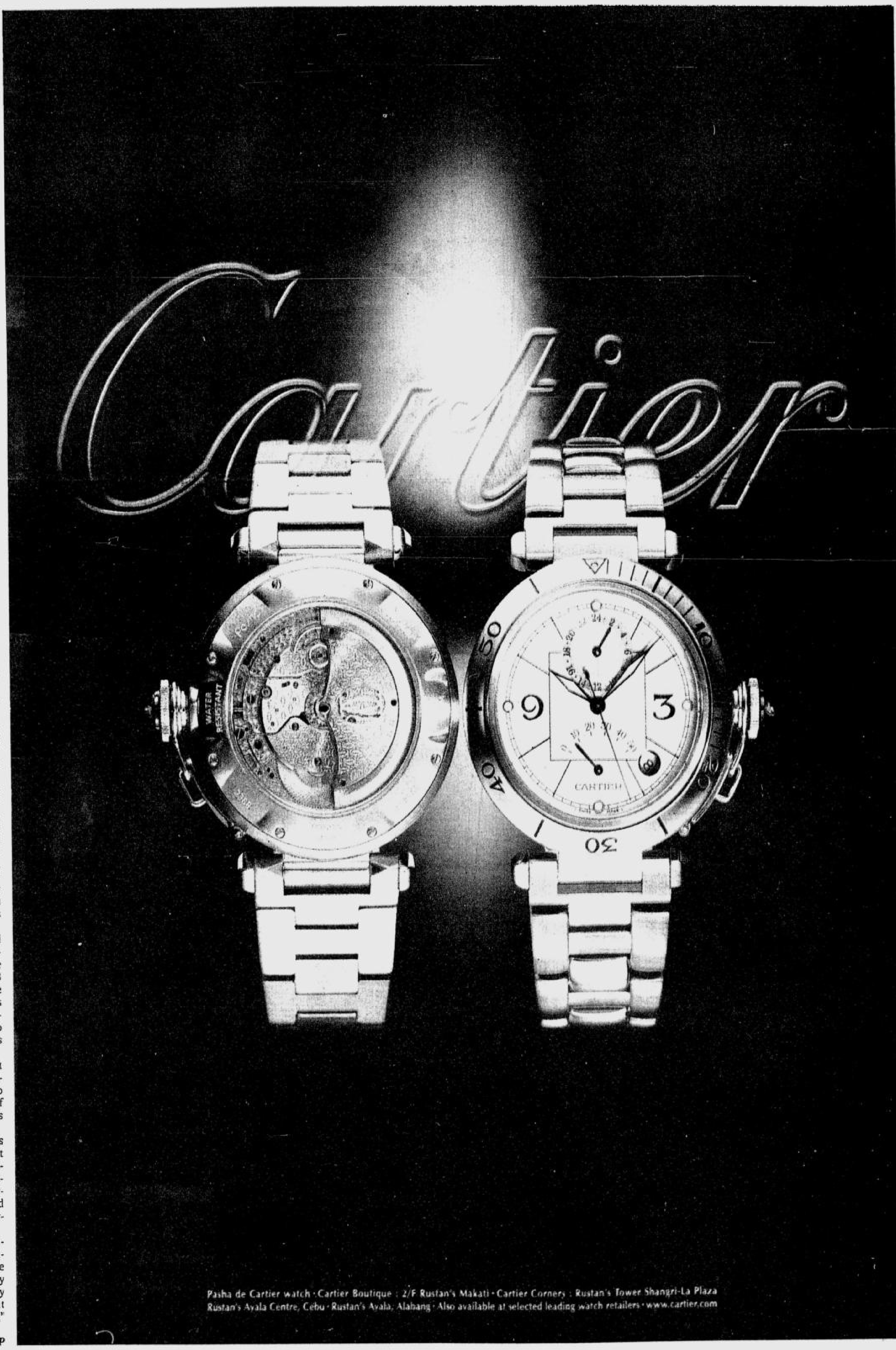
Turnover reached P559.3 million including a block sale worth about P103 million in Bank of the Philippine Islands shares. Gainers outpaced losers, 41 to 27, while 33 issues were unchanged.

"It was a shakeout of the more jittery investors," said Leo Venezuela of Unicapital Securities Inc.

"Many investors thought the market was oversold," Venezuela said, remarking that foreign buying had continued even when the market was sluggish.

"They were continuing to accumulate positions in the market. It actually indicates that they are more confident than local investors," he said.

Reuters, AFP



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SEC lets brokers operate RP offices offshore

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has allowed foreign stockbrokerages to conduct part of their Philippine operations overseas.

The SEC approved last week the request of UOB Kay Hian Securities to undertake trading, settlement and other activities from its head office in Singapore.

"This may be the start of some backroom operations done out of the Philippines," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said. It should encourage other brokers doing business here to work on a similar arrangement, she added.

UOB voluntarily suspended its operations earlier due to poor market conditions. It decided to renew its license after the SEC issued a new policy that required inactive stockbrokerages to put up a minimum capital requirement of P100 million should they return to the stock market.

UOB, however, wanted to maintain only three employees—an associate person, a salesperson and a general clerk—to keep its costs down.

The Philippine Stock Exchange and the SEC were concerned that the small number of people would be inadequate to meet the stockbrokerage's daily operational requirements, particularly in the areas of accounting and settlement.

SEC documents showed that the stockbrokerage assured that there were proper policies and systems that would address these concerns.

UOB specifically said it had group policies on knowing its clients to ensure there would be no irregularities. It pointed out that most of its transactions would be inter-company because its clients were under the UOB Kay Hian Holdings Group in Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong.

The stockbrokerage also said it would segregate duties between its front and back offices and make available trading documentation to the PSE and SEC.

"We will be able to look at books in Singapore to be able to verify rules on monitoring," it said.

It has also made an undertaking that in the event there is an increase in their client base they will increase manpower, SEC brokerages and exchanges department assistant director Carol Lerma said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Manulife posts 18% growth

MANULIFE Philippines has reported an 18-percent growth in consolidated sales last year despite a global economic downturn and a domestic political crisis in early 2001. No country-specific figures, however, were disclosed.

The company reported that its subsidiary, Manulife Financial Plans, posted a 14-percent increase in premiums, a record for the financial services firm.

As of end-2001, Manulife reported a sales force of nearly 800 agents all over the country. It is targeting a total of 1,000 agents by the end of the year.

"Manulife continues on its aggressive growth track even amid a most challenging economic backdrop. We are off to a good start in 2002. With more agents this year than at any other time in the past, this gives us reason to maintain optimism," Manulife president and chief executive officer Renato Vergel de Dios said in a statement.

Abigail L. Ho

Piatco appeals ruling

THE PHILIPPINE International Air Terminals Co. Inc. is asking the Department of Trade and Industry to overturn a decision by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority rejecting its petition for a waiver of duties on construction materials and airport equipment for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Passenger Terminal 3 project.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said Piatco reiterated that it was entitled to fiscal perks, such as duty-free importation of capital equipment, since Naia 3 was registered as an economic zone facilities enterprise by Peza.

Piatco officials met with Roxas to submit their firm's appeal. Roxas is chair of Peza, but he claims he was not present when the Peza board made the Piatco decision in October last year.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Warning vs Powerhomes

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has reiterated its warning to the public against dealing with real estate network firm Powerhomes Ltd.

In a news conference on Thursday, SEC compliance and enforcement director Tomas Syquia said there was still a pending case before the Court of Appeals regarding the cease-and-desist order the SEC issued last year against Powerhomes for its alleged involvement in unregistered investment contracts.

The appellate court issued an injunction preventing the execution of the CDO but the SEC has asked that this be lifted.

Elena R. Torrijos

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DTI to hold talks on China as WTO member

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry said yesterday it would hold brainstorming sessions with industry leaders to map out defensive and offensive trade strategies with the entry of China into the World Trade Organization.

In an interview, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II stressed that there was an urgent need to come up with an action plan "to fortify ourselves," saying China's industries were posing a big threat to Philippine players.

China's export of goods, which already permeates the Philippine market, is expected to increase substantially with that country's acceptance into the WTO last year.

China's WTO membership will give it more access to markets worldwide, Roxas said.

He said the Philippines was wary of including China in the Asean Free Trade Area in 2010 because China would compete in the same industries that Asean members were already thriving in.

Roxas said the trade department and local industry leaders would have to identify the areas or products where the Philippines should enhance its competitiveness to compete with Chinese-made goods.

China beats the Philippines in most manufactured goods in terms of production costs and variety because of its low labor costs.

Roxas said, however, that while China was a threat to Philippine industries, China also offered a potentially huge market for Philippine-manufactured goods and commodities with its population of over a billion people.

Roxas said semiconductors, minerals and agriculture commodities would benefit from the opening of China's markets to other countries in line with its free trade commitments as a member of the WTO.

Game shows lift sales of Nortel Philippines

POPULAR game shows have lifted sales of communications equipment provider Nortel Networks Philippines Inc. last year, according to a company executive.

In a news briefing on Thursday, Nortel Philippines managing director Antonio Pio de Roda said orders for telephony equipment from producers of ABS-CBN's "Game Ka Na Ba? and British firm Celador's "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire" had risen, as these game shows' ratings rose.

Pio de Roda, however, declined to provide exact figures, citing strict disclosure policies of its parent firm, Canada's Nortel Networks.

He said game show producers were compelled to acquire new equipment to service thousands of calls that were flooding their networks.

"They were a bit conservative at the start, but it became a big sale for us when (their popularity) picked up," he said. *Abigail L. Ho*

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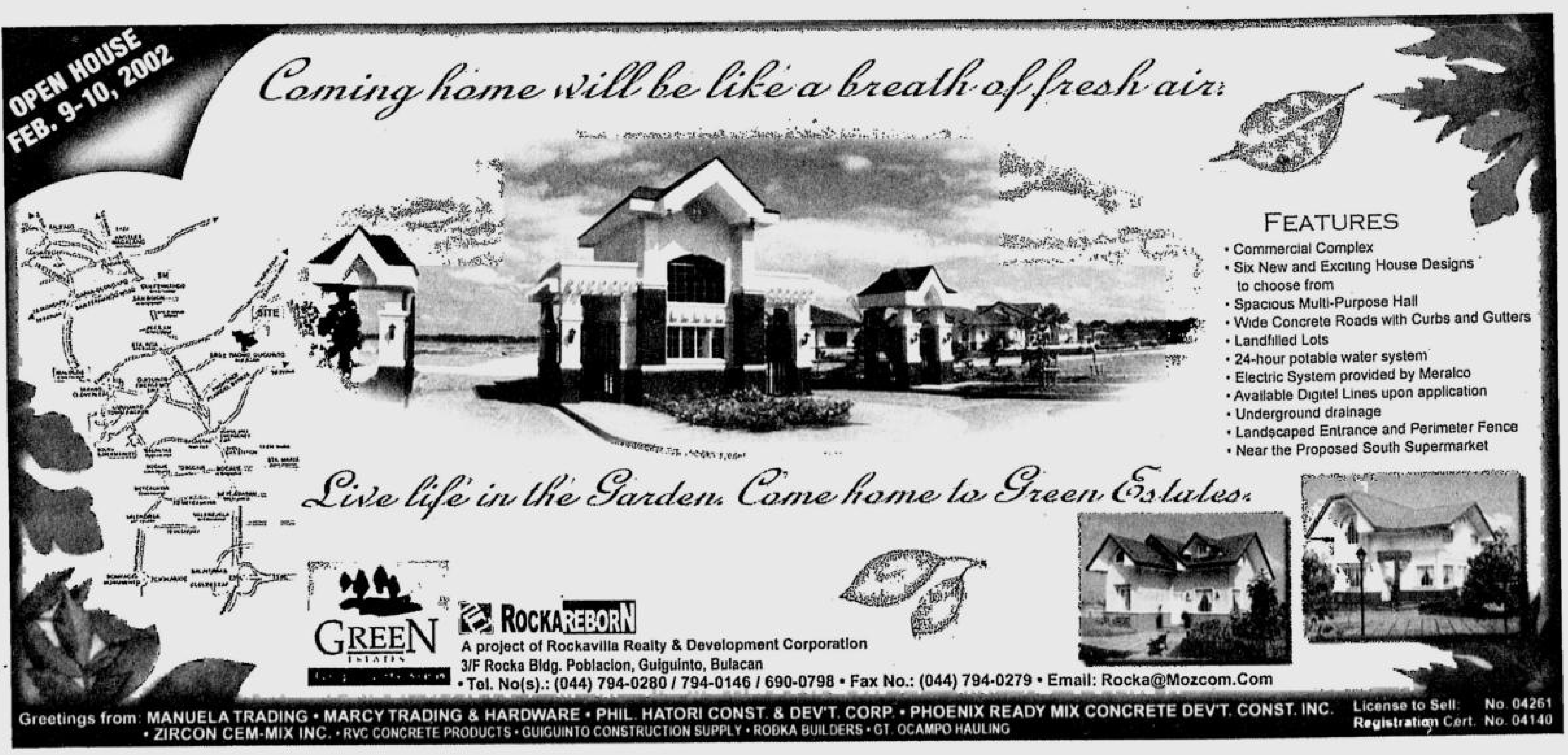
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STAKE UP TO 25%

Singapore property company to infuse P1.2B into Filinvest

By Doris C. Dumlao

A PROPERTY unit of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. Pte. Ltd. (GIC) will infuse P1.2 billion in fresh equity into Filinvest Land Inc. to raise the Singaporean firm's stake in the local housing developer to 25 percent from 12 percent.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, FLI president Joseph Yap said Reco Grandhomes Pte. Ltd.—which is being managed by the GIC Real Estate Pte. Ltd.—subscribed to the P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds recently issued by FLI.

The subscription entitles the GIC group to 640 million in additional shares or another 13-percent stake. The group currently holds 500 million shares or 12 percent of FLI.

"Filinvest welcomes the entry of this long-term strategic foreign investor. Their investment signals the confidence of the international investment community both in FLI as well as the Philippines," Yap said in a press statement.

"Partnering with a strong global real estate investor provides synergy. It will allow FLI access to regional trends in the real estate business," he added.

The shares that will cover the P1.2-billion convertible bond float will be taken out of the unissued portion of FLI's authorized capital.

GIC is a state-owned fund management established in 1981 to manage Singapore's over $100 billion worth of reserves. The funds are invested all over the world in assets such as equities, fixed income and money market instruments, real estate and special investments.

The disclosure said FLI's existing shareholders were not given the preemptive rights to the offering due to lack of time required to meet the maturing dollar convertible bond obligation by Feb. 8. It said the private placement was the preferred route, being the "most efficient and least costly."

"By issuing convertible bonds, there is a greater possibility of increasing our equity base and reducing our reliance on debt, thus reducing cost and increasing future earnings," Yap said.

With the closing of the bond subscription, FLI also announced yesterday that it had fully retired the $100-million convertible bonds it issued in 1996, thus wiping out the company's entire foreign currency exposure.

FLI's total borrowings have been reduced to P3.5 billion, from a high of P8 billion in 1999. Over the last three months, the Filinvest group, including FLI and Filinvest Development Corp., have retired a total of $250 million in convertible bonds.

FLI is one of the country's largest residential real estate developers, with projects in Metro Manila and the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon (Calabarzon) area. It also owns a 20-percent stake in Filinvest Alabang Inc., developer of the 244-hectare Filinvest Corporate City, Festival Supermall, Northgate Cyberzone, the Palms Country Club and various high-rise residential developments all located in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Recently, FLI has focused more on developing and marketing middle-class projects, such as the Blue Grass project in Batangas, Vista Hills and Punta Alteza in Laguna. It also works hand in hand with state-controlled National Housing Authority (NHA) in building low-cost housing units.

Shell urged to conduct IPO this year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said the government was in serious negotiations with Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. on its possible initial public offering this year.

"I have had intense discussions with (Shell officials) in Manila and London and I urged them to do the IPO this year given its projected net income of P2.5 billion for 2001," Perez said.

The secretary said the Shell officials did not give him a categorical "yes or no" but further discussions would be made.

"I am confident that Pilipinas Shell will realize, just as Mirant Philippines did, that this is a good year to go public in the stock exchange," he said.

Perez earlier announced that Mirant's US-based parent company had committed to the government that its local unit would do an IPO within the year.

Perez reiterated that the fourth quarter would be the best time for Shell to do its IPO.

In earlier interviews, Shell officials said the firm's performance last year indicated strength while maintaining that an IPO was mainly an issue of right timing.

Last year's net income of about P2.5 billion is a big turnaround from a net loss of P1.1 billion in 2000.

Shell has been regularly submitting to the energy department its assessments on the conditions affecting the timing of its IPO, the officials said.

INQUIRER POLL

Brokers back longer trading hours

By Pippa M. Rendel

MOST brokers are in favor of the proposed extension of the trading hours at the Philippine Stock Exchange, although many believe the initial benefits may be minimal, according to a random poll by the INQUIRER.

Six out of 10 brokers covered by the survey supported the move to extend the trading hours up to 2:30 p.m. and said that while they did not believe trading would rise dramatically, any increase in the trading volume would be welcome.

"I don't expect the volume of trading to double, but I would expect an incremental increase in volume, which is still positive," said Philippine Equities Partners president Jojo Madrid.

2tradeasia.com chief operating officer Grace Cerdenia said the move should have a positive impact on investments.

"This will allow us to reach out and service more clients," she said.

Three brokers interviewed said that while they were happy with the proposal they felt that the benefit to the market would increase if trading hours were extended until 4 p.m. "This would enable brokers to catch the European market," said a broker.

"Extending (trading) hours is one of those little steps we need in order for the Philippine equities market to be taken seriously. We'd really prefer the trading hours extended all the way to 4 p.m.," Westlink Global Equities head of research James Lago said.

I. Ackerman & Co. president Irving Ackerman said he supported the longer trading hours on a trial basis. "I think the idea has a certain merit. We'll never know how it will fare if we won't try it, and if it will work we'll gain something," he said.

However, some brokers said the market was not strong enough to warrant extended trading hours. KGI Securities broker Fitz Aclan said he thought the move to extend the trading hours was premature.

"I don't think the trading hours should be extended immediately, probably we can do it in a year's time. Right now, we're still in the recovery stage. Volume hasn't picked up enough to warrant longer hours," he said.

This opinion was shared by First Orient broker Rolly Pineda.

'I have reservations. Since we have a small market we really can't compete with the bigger markets like Hong Kong and Japan. The volume hasn't picked up enough, so with the longer hours I think we'll see a slowdown in trading rather than increased volume," Pineda said.

Trading at the PSE currently starts at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 12 noon, making the local bourse one of the few remaining markets in the world that operate on a half-day basis. The others include Iran, Slovenia and Taiwan which, however, is open on Saturdays.

The final decision on the longer trading hours rests with the PSE board. The proposal of the PSE's floor trading and arbitrage committee calls for the start of the longer trading hours on Feb. 18, instead of the Feb. 12 target set by PSE president Ernest Leung, which would have been in time for the entry of the Chinese New Year.

A 10-year CBA moratorium

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

GOOD news for employers and HR managers. The Supreme Court upholds the validity of a 10-year CBA moratorium. This ruling will pave the way for the successful outcome of many ongoing CBA negotiations involving thousands of business enterprises in the country. No less than the highest court of the land is now telling us that it's okay to suspend the CBA for 10 years.

We refer to the case of Gerardo F. Rivera, et al, vs. Hon. E. Espiritu, Hon. B. Laguesma, PAL, Lucio Tan, et al, (GR 135547), the ruling of which was penned by former Labor Secretary now Justice Leonardo Quisumbing on 23 January 2002. Thanks to lawyer Nash Khan of the Supreme Court who tipped me about this. It should be mentioned that the PAL labor disputes started to sprout after Khan left PAL as VP-HR. The unanimous decision was concurred by Justices Bellosillo, Mendoza, Buena and De Leon.

Stocks, in lieu of CBA

The facts of the case will give us enough basis for the ruling. In mid-1998, PAL pilots went on an illegal strike, causing tremendous losses for the company. To avoid total collapse, PAL downsized its workforce. Palea, the union of ground personnel, went on strike. Then President Estrada acted to help PAL by constituting a task force headed by then Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu.

PAL submitted to the task force an offer from PAL chair and CEO Lucio Tan to transfer 60,000 fully paid shares of stocks to each employee. The aggregate shares would enable them to install three board members. In consideration, the workers were asked to suspend their CBA for 10 years.

Members' acceptance

After an initial rejection, the workers accepted Tan's offer on condition that they would be represented in all management committees and that PAL would continue to recognize Palea as the bargaining agent. The new agreement was accepted by 61 percent of the 5,324 Palea members who voted.

Thereafter, seven officers of Palea questioned the agreement as a violation of the right to self-organization and collective bargaining agreement. The Supreme Court rejected this claim and upheld the validity of the agreement.

CBA as stabilizer

The Supreme Court reminds us that a CBA is a contract between the union, as the bargaining agent of the employees, and the management, containing terms and conditions of employment. "The primary purpose of a CBA is the stabilization of labor-management relations in order to create a climate of a sound and stable industrial peace."

The court stressed that: "In construing a CBA, the courts must be practical and realistic and give due consideration to the context in which it is negotiated and the purpose which it is intended to serve."

CBA suspension, not taboo

The court held that the moratorium was a product of negotiations driven by severe financial problems. The parties intended it to save the company from ultimate closure. Thus, the covenant must be upheld.

The oppositors' argument that the covenant violated Article 253-A of the Labor Code was rejected. "We find no conflict between the said agreement and Article 253-A . . . which has a twofold purpose. One is to promote industrial peace . . . The other is to assign specific timetables wherein negotiations become a matter of right and requirement. Nothing in Article 253-A prohibits . . . warning or suspending the mandatory timetables . . ."

Moratorium, negotiable

The Supreme Court said that the right to free collective bargaining includes the right to suspend it. It was the union that agreed to it after a series of negotiations. And a majority of the union members ratified the agreement. The matter is negotiable and the agreement is neither contrary to law nor a violation to any public policy.

It was also stressed that it was not a contravention of the constitutional mandate on the protection of labor. It was not an unfair labor practice just because the tenure of Palea as a bargaining agent was virtually secured for 10 years.

Union security, not ULP

The high court refused to declare as unfair labor practice the stipulation that PAL should continue to recognize Palea even during the moratorium, as well as the provision on upholding the union security clause during the 10-year period.

The court held: "It is the state's policy to promote unionism to enable workers to negotiate with management on an even playing field and with more persuasiveness than if they were to individually and separately bargain with the employer. For this reason, the law has allowed stipulations for the union shop and closed shop as means of encouraging workers to join and support the union of their choice in the protection of their rights and interests vis-à-vis the employer."

Freedom to contract

The Supreme Court did not agree with the oppositors that the agreement violated the five-year representation limits mandated by Article 253-A. Under the said article, the representation limit for the exclusive bargaining agent applies only when there is an extant CBA in full force and effect. But in this case, it is noted that the parties suspended the CBA and put in abeyance the limit on the representation period.

The court concluded that the moratorium covenant was a valid exercise of the parties' freedom to contract. Thus, there is no other option but to uphold it under the constitutionally guaranteed principle of inviolability of contracts.

Win-win solutions

In times of business difficulties, both the employers and the employees should share the sacrifices and carry the burden of the crisis together. Instead of workers opting for illegal strikes that can only destroy both investments and jobs, they can choose moratorium as a lesser evil. From now on, management can follow the PAL example. Unions can also learn from Palea thus saving us from closures.

It is a win-win solution, designed to give both parties a chance to maneuver for recovery. In better times, there shall be better things to share and enjoy.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

DISCLOSURES

THE SUSPENSION on the trading of **Boulevard Holdings Inc.** shares was lifted yesterday following the submission of the company's annual report.

* * *

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy disclosed that **PNOC-Energy Development Corp.** completed the perforation of its remaining target zones. Since no gas flow was found after opening the well, the company will inject nitrogen gas into the well to lift to the surface any liquid or gas produced. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 8, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	66.5	65.5	66	91,700
China Banking Corp.	570	570	570	570	740
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14 25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	28	26.5	28	119,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	209	204	206	114,700
Philippine National Bank	74.5	74.5	74.5	74.5	500
Phil. Savings Bank	27	29	27	29	1,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	17,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18.5	17 75	18.5	421,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1320	1290	1320	330
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1025	1020	1020	15,780
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	29	29.5	83,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.56	0.59	0 56	0.59	3,000,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	765	750	755	5,830
Ipeople Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	3,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub Corp	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	4,000
Piltel	0.43	0.51	0.43	0.5	18,130,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	492.5	510	492.5	505	145,400
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	184,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26.5	26	26.5	43,500
Manila Electric Co. B	37	37.5	35.5	37.5	808,000
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	6,429,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2 9	2.95	2.9	2.95	2,053,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5 5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	60,000
Union Cement Corp	0 7	0.7	0.7	0.7	610,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.25	14 25	14.25	14.25	4,911,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23	23	23	23	59,100
RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	2,685,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	45.5	46	46 5	84,400
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	117,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.04	130,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	580,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	525,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0 0075	0.0075	80,000,000
Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,620,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0 2	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.75	0.7	0.75	21,890,000
Crown Equities Inc	0.41	0.42	0 41	0.42	1,660,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.0625	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	5,330,000
Fil-Estate Corp	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.97	0 96	0.96	680,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2 24	2.24	2.2	2.2	20,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	137,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	7,530 000
Ionics Inc.	8	8.3	8	8.3	36,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	15,000
Macroasia Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Megaworld Corp	0.81	0.83	0.81	0.83	820,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0 5	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	3,430,000
Music Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	3,580,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	16,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.26	0.3	120,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0 32	0.3	0.32	260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6 6	6 6	6.6	6.6	165 000
Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0 08	0.08	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	58,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	660 000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	170,000
Mondragon Intl. Phils. Inc	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.49	80,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.17	0.17	130,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.4	4.4	4 4	4.4.	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30	28 5	29.5	229,800
DMCI Holdings Inc -Pref	710	710	710	710	3,590
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	750	750	750	750	1,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	3,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10 25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0 006	0.0055	0.006	69,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	2,731,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0 22	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.245	0 27	4,850,000
Cyber Bay Corp	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.47	7,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,370,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	2,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.98	2.04	1.96	1.98	40,007,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	150,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6 6	6.5	6.5	1,300,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0 004	0.004	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev't.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	120,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.036	0.04	0.036	0.04	70,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.215	800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0 225	0 225	0.22	0 22	6,780,000
Omico Corp	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,550,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,130,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0 0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	15,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0775	0 0775	0.0775	0.0775	200 000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,327,450	160,963,825 00
Comm'l & Ind'l	431 437,880	276,144,125.00
PRO	63,888,000	115,230,210.00
Mining	101,645,000	6,301,300 00
OIL	46,200,000	426,000 00
GRAND TOTALS:	645,498,330	559,065,460 00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	552.94	UP 1 63
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,827.74	UP 10.32
PRO	580 52	DOWN 2.51
Mining	1,377.95	UP 22 88
OIL	1.86	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	728.89	DOWN 6 91
Composite	1,344.35	UP 4 41

NO. OF ADVANCES 41; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 33; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101: NO. OF TRADES. 2,813

CURRENCIES

Feb. 08, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.147579	1.000000	51.2030
Japan	Yen	0.008587	0.007483	0.3832
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623250	1.414500	72.4266
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147315	0.128370	6.5729
Switzerland	Franc	0.679563	0.592171	30.3209
Canada	Dollar	0.717551	0.625274	32.0159
Singapore	Dollar	0.627126	0.546478	27.9813
Australia	Dollar	0.581347	0.506586	25.9387
Bahrain	Dinar	3.044137	2.652661	135.8242
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306021	0.266667	13.6542
Brunei	Dollar	0.624873	0.544514	27.8808
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026189	0.022821	1.1685
UAE	Dirham	0.312521	0.272331	13.9442
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000764	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.871400	44.6183
Brazil	Real	0.474941	0.408163	20.8992
Denmark	Kroner	0.134635	0.117347	6.0085
India	Rupee	0.023703	0.020576	1.0536
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.303253	0.263227	13.4780
Mexico	New Peso	0.126561	0.109182	5.5904
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481691	0.416320	21.3168
Norway	Kroner	0.127865	0.111408	5.7044
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019204	0.016667	0.8534
South Africa	Rand	0.100663	0.087673	4.4891
Sweden	Kroner	0.108586	0.094264	4.8266
Syria	Pound	0.022460	0.019493	0 9981
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032996	0.028629	1.4659
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001496	0.001279	0.0655

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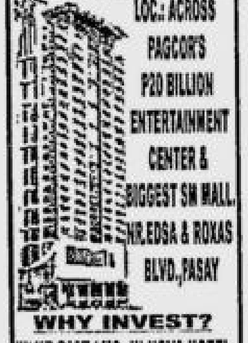

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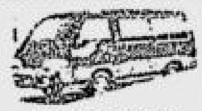

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the certificate of stock #019 consisting of 2500 shares of SLORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION issued to LARCY MARICHI Y. SO was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 26. Feb. 2 & 9, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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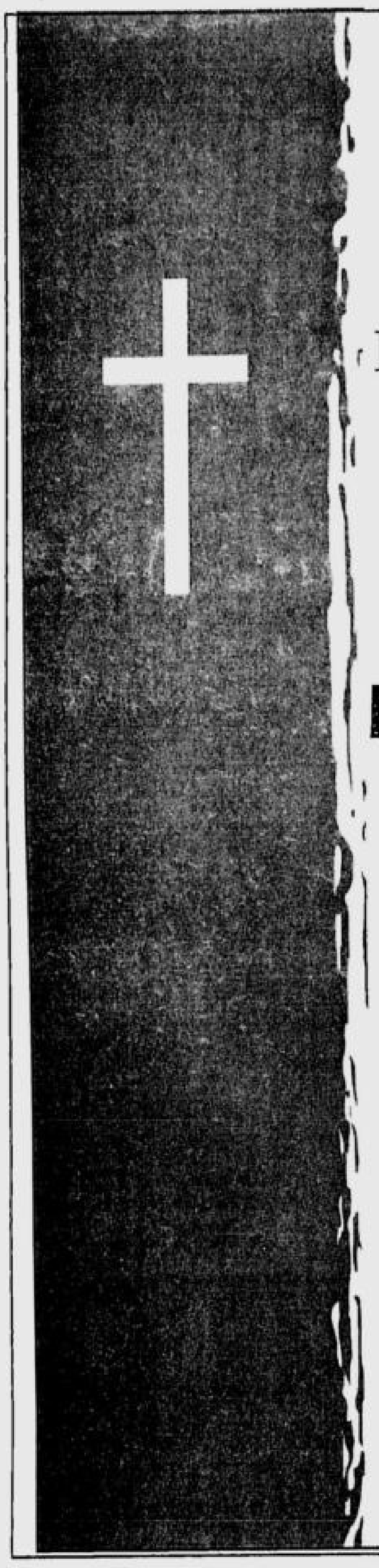

We condole
with the family of

H. E. Enrique Hubbard Urrea,
Ambassador of Mexico

on the untimely death
of his beloved father

Don Carlos Hubbard Rojas

A good man, whose example,
dedication and devotion has left his
family with a lasting legacy.

Passed away on January 26, 2002
in El Rosario, Sinaloa, Mexico

CEMEX
PHILIPPINES

In Loving Memory on the
15th Death Anniversary of

DOMINGA "Dominquita" PEREZ-GARCIA

December 20, 1903 – February 9, 1987

Children **Celerina, Fe, Jose, Aurora, Antonio, Esperanza, Leonardo, Juanito, Caridad & Guadalupe**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at:

St. Patrick Church, *San Francisco, California*	6:00 AM
St. Ignatius Church, *Antioch, California*	8:00 AM
Mount Carmel Chapel, *Fairview, Quezon City*	8:00 AM
Lord of Divine Mercy Parish, *Sikatuna Vill., Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Christ the King, *E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
St. Peter & Paul Cathedral, *Sorsogon, Sorsogon*	6:00 AM

FERNANDO FOJAS NER

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 7, 2002 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Emilia**; children **Fernando Jr. & Mary Jean, Roberto & Isabelita Mastrili, Felicito, Luisito & Pilita**; sister **Teodora**; brother **Rodolfo**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Parish Center of Tanza Catholic Church, Tanza, Cavite.

Interment is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2002.

You Will Always Be Lovingly Remembered

REYNALDO A. SALVADOR

February 15, 1960 – February 7, 2002

Met his untimely demise in a car accident on February 7, 2002.

His bereaved parents **Mario** and **Nena Salvador**; his siblings and their spouses **Gerry, Mariel** and **Mitch, Jun** and **Espie, Tony, Mafi** and **Chito, Vicky** and **Vic**; nieces and nephews, titos and titas and other relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul with the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (Claret), U.P. Village, Quezon City.

Interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque will follow after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, February 12, 2002.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

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Our Beloved

"Ima Ester"
Estrella Adriano Vda. De Tiamson

has peacefully joined our Lord and Creator on February 7, 2002 at the age of 92.

Her surviving family members — brother **Virgilio**; her step-children, the **Tiamsons**; her nephews and nieces from the **Adriano** and **Gozo Families**; grand nephews and nieces, and relatives both here and abroad request the pious reader to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Cristo Chapel in Guagua, Pampanga. Funeral will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2002 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Eternal Gift Memorial Park, San Pablo, Guagua, Pampanga.

"Eternal rest grant unto her soul O' Lord and may perpetual light shine upon her!"

Maria Aurora "Mara" D. Abad

23 April 1968 - 01 January 2002

Thank you for being a part of my life.

"God is good all the time."

Mara Abad

Our Dearly Beloved

ESTER MISSION JALIJALI

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 6, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her late husband **Mariano V. Jalijali** (†); loving children and in-laws **Intong & Lina, Cora, Boy & Banneth**; grandchildren **Mark & Karen, Tatat & Donna, Renan, Sherryl, Kate, Jason & Katriz**; great grandchild **Isabella**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque. (Date to be announced later).

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For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tels. 522-8848, 522-9438, 400-5394

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Smoking spots

Q. What's the function of those small, light-colored spots on a brown cigarette filter?

A. Nothing, except to make the filter look more appealing. According to studies, a good number of smokers who go for brown filters have this fancy for cork, though the exact reason for that remains unclear. So, cigarette companies print the dots with a nontoxic ink to simulate the look of cork (in fact, the style is called 'cork tip') and thus satisfy the delicate aesthetic preferences of customers.

Name Game. **Marlboro.** The familiar brand of American cigarettes is (in a modified spelling) an English aristocratic one, associated not so much directly with the Wiltshire town of Marlborough as with the dukes and earls who took the name of the town as their title. The most famous was the military commander John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, who led the British forces in the War of the Spanish Succession, winning a decisive victory at Blenheim in 1704. Originally launched in the 19th century, the Marlboro cigarette was promoted in the 1920s as a brand especially suitable for women. In their case the association could equally have been with the Duke's wife, the famous Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough.

In Other Words. 'No Smoking' signs around the world: *Défense de fumer* (French); *Rauchen Verboten* (German); *Vietato Fumare* (Italian); *Se Prohibe Fumar* (Spanish); *Rökning förbjuben* (Swedish); *Kin'en* (Japanese); *Qing wu xiyan* (Chinese); *Mamnoo-a e-tadkheen* (Arabic).

WORD WATCH

Tabako : from the Spanish *tabaco*, which, in turn, derives from the West Indian *tobaco*, a pipe in which the native Indians smoked the tobacco plant.

PDI -- February 9, 2002

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos. 527-4878 & 527-4880 to 82

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO I 02-001 (PBT)

DATE OF BIDDING - FEBRUARY 21, 2002
Pre-bid Conference - February 18, 2002

Interested NPC accredited LICENSED CUSTOMS BROKERS are invited to bid for one (1) year BROKERAGE SERVICES for NPC importations arriving from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 for Air and Ocean carriers.

The services required cover clearance of cargo from Customs custody and delivery to various NPC destinations within Metro Manila and other designated delivery points in Luzon.

Bid documents shall be issued to NPC accredited customs brokers from the Traffic Unit, Administration Division upon payment of P 200.00 per schedule which is non-refundable.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in the amount stated in the tender documents.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI--Feb. 9, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that the remaining volume of the imported yellow corn under the FY 2001 PL 480 Title 1 Program of the United States of America shall be pre-sold thru Sale thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP).

All interested yellow corn users who intend to participate in the bidding should be guided by the following:

1. The volume shall be a maximum of 131,500 MT imported yellow corn, disport Manila and Subic.
2. The quality specification is US Yellow corn No. 2 in bulk.
3. The Indicative price is set at P7.30/kilo for the commodity. However, offerors shall inform the NFA the point / mode of withdrawal whether:
   - **a. Ex-FOT bulk**
   - **b. Ex-FOT bagged**
   - **c. F.O. silo**
   - **d. FOW**
4. A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **February 11** and **18, 2002** and the bidding proper on **February 13** and **20, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Penthouse, 11th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
5. The bidding shall be open to all interested corn users.
6. A bid bond equivalent to 5% of total auction offered amount in the form of either cash/manager's/cashier's check/Letter of Credit (L/C) payable to NFA shall be required from interested bidders. The L/C shall be irrevocable at sight and valid for thirty (30) days.
7. The bidding for the 131,500 MT is subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth by the NFA. All interested bidders are required to secure the Terms and Conditions from the NFA at its Marketing Operations Department, 5th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
8. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.

For further inquiries, contact NFA-DMO at telephone numbers 712-15-72; 712-15-64; 712-19-28.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI--Feb. 8 & 9, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG KORPORASYON SA ELEKTRISIDAD
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

G6-2002-001

The NPC-GENCO 6 wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING : FEBRUARY 25, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	9 PCS	RUBBERIZED CORK GASKET OIL RESISTANT	3OPO-01-0010
A2	1 LOT	CONTINUOUS FORM	3PTG-02-0023
		DATE OF BIDDING : FEBRUARY 26, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	FABRICATION OF 230 KV DISCONNECT OPERATING PARTS	3MAK-01-0373
B2	10 SETS	DISCONNECT SWITCH 230 KV TAKAOKA TYPE THR OR EQUIV.	3MAK-01-0376
B3	6 SETS	DISCONNECT SWITCH 72.5KV TAKAOKA TYPE THR OR EQUIV.	3MAK-01-0374
B4	12 PCS	CABLE SEAL, SUS 304 MATERIAL FOR ABS-JUMBO PUMP TYPE, 250HV CAP 1300GPM, 3 PHASE, 230/460 VAC	3MAK-01-0437
B5	1 LOT	VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES	3ADM-02-0023

For Schedules A1 and A2, bidding shall be handled by TRANSCO South Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting February 12, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get pre-qualification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than February 19, 2002 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. J. MEDINA
Manager, Administration
GENCO 6

(PDI--Feb. 9, 2002)

Sweet Nothings

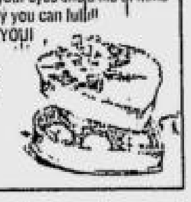
This Valentine season, let the world know how much that special someone means to you by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On **February 14**, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS** will publish personal ads dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P180** per column centimeter.

For more information, visit or call any **INQUIRER** branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

SAMPLE ADS

Iane,
There is a love that only you could give, a smile that only your face can show, a twinkle that can be seen only in your eyes and a life of mine that only you can fulfill!
I LOVE YOU!
always,
Red



size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P720 VAT exclusive

Happy Heart's Day Lizl You're God's greatest blessing – Tim

size: 3 lines
cost: P150 VAT exclusive

I love you Regin! Loving you is one of the best things I've ever done in my life. Happy Valentine's Day! – Mikaela

size: 4 lines
cost: P200 VAT exclusive

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OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

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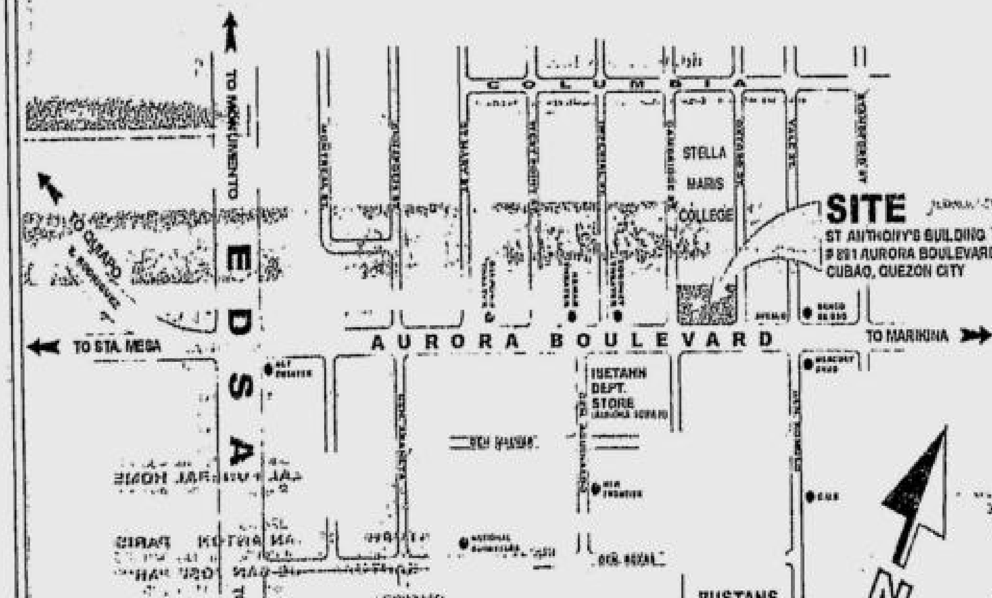

> *For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth,*
> *And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God.*
> (Job 19:25-26)

B/Gen. Raymundo Y. Teruel, (RET., AFP)

of Jaro, Iloilo City
March 28, 1920 - February 5, 2002

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 5, 2002 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Beatrice Mauricio Teruel**; children **Sonie Teruel, Gerry & Nenette Teruel, Linda & Jun (†) Ting, Doris & William Lou, Boogie & Thelma Teruel**; grandchildren **Kimie Neal, Ceanie, Gerard, Jan, Em-Em, Miggy Teruel, Juna Ting, Chester, Ton-Ton, Mark, Matthew** and **Luke Lou, Camille, Mario & Victor Teruel**; Siblings **Caring & Elena Teruel, Pat & Nonong Figura, Felix & Nena Teruel, Alice (†) & Al Flores**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal and peaceful repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Charity, Don Bosco Chapel, Makati today, February 9, 2002
Villamor Airbase Chapel, Pasay City - February 10, 2002
St. Ignatious Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo - February 11 - 13, 2002.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 13, 2002, 12 noon at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani after the 10 am Mass at Camp Aguinaldo.

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WANTED

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L'azurde Jewellery
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Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and
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Attn: **Administration Manager (Creative Application)**
or Email to **admin@lazurde.com**

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6th Floor, P & L Building, 116 Legaspi Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 818-61-46; 815-31-57; 818-02-71
Fax No. (632) 817-48-16

or E-mail: **mga@info.com.ph**

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE of SLUDGE/WASTE OILS
Located at ENRON Compound, SBMA, Olongapo City and at NPC Concepcion S/S, Mun. of Concepcion, Province of Tarlac

"AS IS WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL BASIS"

Date of Bidding: February 21, 2002

	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	QTY	Min. Bid Price
1	Sludge Diesel Fuel Oil, contained inside Storage Tank # 1, approximately 54,522 liters, more or less Note: Actual volume will be the basis for Actual cost	ENRON Compound, SBMA	1 Lot	P 281,878.74
2	Sludge Bunker Fuel Oil, contained inside Storage Tank # 2 & 3, approximately 568 749 liters, more or less. Note: Actual volume will be the basis for Actual cost	ENRON Compound, SBMA	1 Lot	P1,774,496.88
3	Used Lube Oil, contained inside 67 standard steel drums, approximately 10,050 Liters, more or less. (Drums are included in the disposal/sale). Note: Actual volume will be the basis for Actual cost	NPC Concepcion Substation, Concepcion, Tarlac	1 Lot	P 20,100.00

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on February 21, 2002 at the Warehouse Office - GenCo 2, National Power Corporation, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City c/o Mr. Orlando C. Verano, Chief - WTTDS & Chairman, RAVC-GenCo 2 and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidden.

Interested parties are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on February 20, 2002 at 2:00 PM at the Warehouse Office - GenCo 2, National Power Corporation, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

All bids must be submitted in two (2) Envelopes with the following:

First Envelope:

1. Proposal Bond Deposit in the form of Cash or Bank Manager's Check only equivalent to 10% of the total bid price or Three-Hundred-Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) whichever is higher.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR) of the individual bidder or Financial Statement of the Company (2000 Original or BIR certified true copy);
3. Terms and Conditions of Bidding/Sale;
4. Bidder's Certification;
5. Bidder's Inspection Certificate duly signed by NPC Officer concerned;
6. For authorized representatives, original copy of Special Power of Attorney
7. DENR Accreditation for Waste Oil Recyclers, Truckers and/or Transporters. Original must be presented.

Second Envelope:

1. Bid Form fully accomplished and duly signed.

Additional information and Bid Forms at P100.00 per set may be secured from Ms. A. P. Salvador, Acting Property Officer at NPC FMD, Mexico, Pampanga and Mr. Al C. Plata, RAVC secretariat at NPC-NLRO, Warehouse/Traffic/Transshipment and Disposal Section, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City (Tel. Nos. 445-45-41 to 44 locals 217 & 239) c/o MR. ORLANDO C. VERANO. Deadline for the issuance of Bid Forms will be until 4:30 P.M., February 20, 2002.

Please note that the National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and to accept any bid most advantageous to the interest of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A. A. PADAEN**
Manager, HR & ADMIN DIV.
& CHAIRMAN, RAMSUC-GENCO 2

(PDI - Feb. 8 & 9, 2002)

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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **1 CH OFFICER with NIS documents**
- **2 2nd OFFICERS with NIS documents**
- **1 2AE with NIS documents**

APPLICANTS PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE DOCUMENTS TO **CAPT. LUSTRICIMO R. RAMIREZ** OR **CAPT. ISABELO C. BALAIS, JR.** at G/F FSE Bldg. 3671-3673 Bautista Ave., cor. Dayap St., Palanan, Makati City. For further inquiries please call 8917660-61.

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Please contact HRD at
831-7803/831-9668/831-7549

NOTICE

This is to inform the public that **ROSCHELLE V. DEL ROSARIO** - Accountant/Cashier, whose photo appears above has been terminated for cause from **Aerotel Limitted Corp.** Any transaction made by said person on behalf of Aerotel shall not be honored and shall be considered void.

(PDI - Feb. 9, 2002)

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892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213; 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219; 635-0220

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines
319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 525-9599; 525-9499 & 522-0000 Locals 2374; 2308 & 3016

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the LBP Multi-Purpose Hall, Wings A & B, Bldg. I, not later than February 22, 2002 @ 2:00 p.m. at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	One (1) unit white 1997 "Hyundai" Sonata; Plate No. SPW-882	LBP Warehouse, Bo. Mambugan, Antipolo City	480,000
2.	One (1) unit white 1997 "Mitsubishi" L300; Plate No. UTD-845 (diesel)		200,000
3.	One (1) unit gray 1996 "Mitsubishi" Lancer GLI; Plate No. PWN-291		167,000
4.	One (1) unit green 1996 "Nissan" Sentra 4-door Sedan; Plate No. UDN-654		160,000
5.	One (1) unit green 1997 "Volkswagen" Polo Classic; Plate No. URM-701		150,000
6.	One (1) unit 1990 "Mitsubishi" Galant 4-door Sedan; Plate No. PTJ-437		90,000
7.	One (1) unit white 1996 "Hyundai" Excel 1.5; Plate No. UML-706		80,000
8.	One (1) unit m.blue 1996 "Daewoo" Racer GTE; Plate No. PWT-425		30,000
9.	One (1) unit m.blue 1996 "Daewoo" Racer GTE; Plate No. PWT-415		20,000
10.	2,022 sq.m. land (Lot I, Blk. I)	Commerce Ave., cor. Asean and Singapura Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Brgy. Alabang, Muntinlupa City	127,390,000
11.	6,030 sq.m. industrial land	Brgy. Maguyam, Silang, Cavite	17,085,000
12.	Ten (10) residential condo units with parking slots (PS);		
	a) Unit No. 9B/PS 82-B4 - 146 sq.m.	8 Wack-Wack Road, Mandaluyong City	7,677,000
	b) Unit No. 16F/PS 83 & 84-B4 - 174 sq.m.		11,132,700
	c) Unit No. 18C/PS 85 & 86-B4 - 174 sq.m.		11,248,600
	d) Unit No. 29D/PS 87-B4 - 108 sq.m.		6,066,000
	e) Unit No. 29D/PS 88-B4 - 108 sq.m.		6,066,000
	f) Unit No. 33C/PS 1 & 2-B4 - 174 sq.m.		13,589,000
	g) Unit No. 33E/PS 3-B4 - 108 sq.m.		6,282,000
	h) Unit No. 34C/PS 4 & 5-B4 - 174 sq.m.		13,676,000
	i) Unit No. 35C/PS 11 & 12-B4 - 174 sq.m.		13,763,000
	j) Unit No. 36C/PS 13 & 14-B4 - 174 sq.m.		13,937,000
13.	5,200 sq.m. parcel of land	Bo. Malhacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan	13,000,000
14.	1,000 sq.m. residential lot with 2-storey residential/office/prod'n/2-storey comm'l bldg.	No. 30 Malhacan Road, Malhacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan	11,503,000
15.	195.5 sq.m. parcel of land with 3-storey residential/commercial bldg. w/ penthouse	No. 68 Bansalangin cor. Palomaria Sts., Veterans Village, Project 7, Quezon City	7,504,000
16.	400 sq.m. residential lot with 4-door, 2-storey apartment building	Gregoria de Jesus cor. T. Alonzo Sts., Tierra Verde Homes, Culiat, Tandang Sora, Q.C.	7,131,500
17.	2,338 sq.m. industrial land	Brgy. Bancal, Carmona, Cavite	7,014,000
18.	457 sq.m. residential lot with 4-door 2-storey apartment building	Gregoria de Jesus cor. T. Alonzo Sts., Tierra Verde Homes, Culiat, Tandang Sora, Q.C.	6,615,333
19.	568 sq.m. lot with residential bldg.	No. 107 PAL Drive, Airlane Village Parañaque City	5,731,000
20.	4,512 sq.m. industrial/residential land with employees quarter and shed	Brgy. 51 A. Nangalisan, Laoag City	4,512,000
21.	450 sq.m. parcel of land with 1 storey residential building	Corner of Kabesang Segundo Avenue, Fortunata Village, Bo. La Huerta, P'que City	3,537,000
22.	463 sq.m. residential lot	Ipil St., within Sitio Serville Subdivision; Neopolitan Phase VI, Bo. Pasong Putik Novaliches, Quezon City	2,315,000
23.	454 sq.m. residential lot		2,270,000
24.	Four (4) contiguous parcels of land with an aggregate area of 547 sq.m.	Zavalla & Purificacion Sts., Zavalla Village 3, Bo. Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	2,025,000
25.	340 sq.m. residential lot	Casa Milan Subdivision, Neopolitan Phase V Bo. Pasong Putik, Novaliches, Quezon City	1,870,000
26.	150 sq.m. residential lot with 2-storey res. bldg. and 2-door 2-storey aprmt. bldg.	No. 05 Bayan St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City	1,749,000
27.	60.109 sq.m. residential condominium unit	Unit 415, 4/F, Makati Terraces Condominium, Davilla St., Metropolitan Village, Makati City	1,680,000
28.	104 sq.m. residential lot with 2-storey residential bldg.	Jesus Ext. cor. P. Noble St., Pandacan Manila	1,680,000
29.	341 sq.m. residential lot with bungalow and duplex type buildings	No. 1528 Dona Mardana Subd., Ugong, Valenzuela City	1,347,000
30.	300 sq.m. residential lot	Geneva Gardens Subdivision, Neopolitan VII, Bo. Pasong Putik, Novaliches Quezon City	1,200,000
31.	300 sq.m. residential lot		1,200,000
32.	150 sq.m. with bungalow type building	Lot 5, Blk. 6, Avocado St., Palmera Homes I Brgy. Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Q.C.	945,000
33.	300 sq.m. parcel of land	Marigold St., Victoria Homes Subd. Bo. Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	480,000
34.	42.85 sq.m. residential lot with 2-storey residential bldg.	No. 4 M. Roxas Street, San Roque, Marikina City	328,000
35.	One lot of computer machineries/equipments and accessories	11th Floor Petron Mega Plaza, Buendia Ave. Ext. & at LBP Warehouse Bo. Mambugan, Antipolo City	439,250
36.	One (1) unit reconditioned Heidelberg KOR Single Color Offset Printing Machine with complete parts and accessories	Toyota Alabang Compound, Cabuyao, Laguna	275,000

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Vice President, Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at 25th Floor, LBP Plaza, M H. Del Pilar cor. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (at the back of Diamond Hotel). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS". The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities/President of the Republic of the Philippines whenever applicable.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **JOSE C. NOGRALES**
Chairman
Committee on Assets Disposal

(PDI - Feb 9 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,600 MT (52,000 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. **Ex-Warehouse Php P22.50/kg or P1,125/bag**

on **February 13** and **February 20, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on February 11 and 18, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested, bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **February 8, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For any inquiries, please call Tel. Nos. **712-1572** and **712-1708**.

Bidding documents will be available on **February 11, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 a.m. at NFA Boardroom on **February 18, 2002** and **February 20, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - Feb 8 & 9, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
National Maternity Hospital
corner Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone Nos. 734-55-61 to 65

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the following items:

	Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference 2:00 p.m.	Public Bidding 2:00 p.m.
SERVICE CONTRACTS:				
I. RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	Feb. 19, 20, 21	Feb. 25, 26, 27	March 4	March 8
a. Hematology Analyzer				
b. Chemistry Analyzer				
c. Elisa Machine				
d. ABG Machine				
e. Ventilator Machine				
II. BIOMEDICAL WASTE SERVICES	Feb. 19, 20, 21	Feb. 27-28	March 6	March 11

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the DJFMH-PBEC Secretariat on February 13, 14 & 15, 2002.

All interested bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on the above-stated schedule at the Reception Hall, DJFMH. Failure to attend the Pre-bid Conference will automatically disqualify participation in the bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equivalent to 2 1/2% of the total bid price but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) which may be in the form of GSIS bond, cash, manager's check or bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank or any combination thereof.

The DJFMH-PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, as evaluated, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARIETA R. SIONGCO, M.D., CESO V**
Chief, Medical Professional Staff II
Chairman, PBEC

(PDI--Feb. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

The cost of living too loud

By Massie K.Santos
Contributor

CAN'T HEAR YA!
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

CELL phones ringing, buses honking, airplanes taking off, radios in jeepneys, movies, conversations in bars and concerts. These days the world is so small it seems no one is out of reach. Unfortunately, the world is also getting too loud that finding a place to record silence is practically impossible.

Living out loud—seizing opportunities and making the most of them—may be the watchword today, but surely that doesn't involve losing one of the five senses in the process.

At last count there were more than a million deaf people in the Philippines. However, determining how many people have suffered some form of hearing loss is much more difficult since some may not even be aware that they have a hearing problem.

Some people lose their sense of hearing due to an illness, like meningitis. Others lose their hearing from standing too close to an exploding firecracker. And still others are constantly exposed to loud noise and simply wake up one day and realize they can't hear a thing.

How we hear

Past the bones of the middle ear (the smallest bones in the human body) are thousands of hair cells. When the bones in the middle ear vibrate due to sound, the hair cells pick up the movements and convert them into electrical impulses that nerves send to the brain for processing and identification.

The hair cells are extremely resilient. However, they can be damaged and unfortunately, like brain cells, they are not replaced when they die.

Prolonged exposure (usually defined as being over 15 consecutive minutes) to anything over 120 decibels (dB) is enough to damage the hair cells in the ears, though one doesn't feel any pain until the volume exceeds 140 dB.

Remarkably, there have been no recorded runs on earplugs at stores in the world despite the noise levels one encounters each day.

Daily noise levels

Students sharing secrets with each other do so at a noise level of 30 dB, though conversations are usually conducted at volumes of 60 dB. Traffic noise levels begin at 85 dB though they increase considerably when the horns, radios and shouting get factored in. MRT passengers can easily discover a fellow rider's musical preferences through his earphones since the music plays at around 110 dB.

The movies "Armageddon" and "Saving Private Ryan" reached 118 dB, and rock concerts go as high as 120 dB. (Classical concerts aren't exactly quiet either. After all, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" calls for cannon fire.)

A plane taking off hits a noise level of 140 dB, though profoundly deaf individuals never notice it since they can't hear anything even at a volume above 120 dB though they may detect the sound wave vibrations.

Dealing with hearing loss

There are several ways of dealing with hearing loss, once it is detected.

Hearing aids come in different shapes, sizes and colors, while cochlear implants are an effective, though expensive, possibility in cases of extreme hearing loss.

Closed captioning—a small screen that displays the dialog on the TV screen—isn't available for many TV shows in the Philippines. (Whether people are even aware of this feature on their TV sets is another matter.) Some people find the words distracting and don't like the fact that the black screen background covers part of the show they're viewing. Watching "Jeopardy" and having the answers appear on screen when host Alex Trebek is still asking the question is also annoying.

Another source of frustration is those sign language interpreters on some shows who can't be understood by all those who can't hear.

New invention

Aside from e-mail and TTDs (phones with a keyboard built in), communication between hearing and deaf people can be facilitated by the translator glove, an invention by Colorado high school senior Ryan Patterson last year. The modified golf glove has a microprocessor that translates the wearer's fingerspelling gestures into letters of the alphabet, which are then displayed on a small screen built onto the glove.

There are plans to incorporate a voice chip someday, and another to expand the sign language dictionary that is currently installed in the glove.

Patterson hasn't quite decided which college he'll be attending, but he does plan to spend more time improving his invention.

Someday, we just might see a person wearing two of these gloves walk into a restaurant and place an order with ease. But until that day, the text messaging capabilities of the ever-present cell phone (or a pen and paper, if they are available), will have to do when ordering hamburger and fries.

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Alternative medicine draws interest

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN THE UNITED States, complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is defined as "those practices explicitly used for medical intervention, health promotion, or disease prevention which are not routinely taught in...medical schools, or routinely underwritten by third party payers within the existing (US) health care system."

However, the practices included in this definition are constantly being revised due to an increasing number of medical schools and insurance companies that are accepting various CAM modalities.

In 1992, the National Institutes of Health launched the first major attempt by the US government to objectively sift "CAM fact" from "CAM fiction" through the creation of the Office of the Alternative Medicine.

In 1998, OAM was upgraded to the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Latest data show that 75 medical schools in the US now include courses in complementary and alternative medicine in their curriculum.

New units

Community hospitals and academic medical centers are opening new units such as the Division of Complementary Medicine (University of Maryland), the Center for Integrative Medicine (Thomas Jefferson University), and the Center for Alternative Medicine and Longevity (Miami Heart Institute). The Miami center offers at least 26 modalities, from applied kinesiology to bio-oxidative therapies to Qi Gong to iridology.

Wrote Paul Root Wolpe in a 1999 article for the Center for Frontier Sciences: "It is a truly ironic development. Who would have predicted that the very medical centers and hospitals that vilified alternative medicine as quackery for most of the century would suddenly be opening clinics, hiring practitioners, and advertising alternative, traditional and spiritually based therapies to patients?"

Wolpe cited the American Medical Association, which suggested that doctors should know something about alternative medicine and had published in its journal in 1998 a full issue on alternative medicine. Wolpe noted though that the organization pulled back from a commitment to publish a volume on alternative medicine fearing a conservative backlash.

In the Philippines, a landmark legislation was passed in 1997 supporting the development of integrated and alternative medicine. It was known as Republic Act 8423, or the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care, whose objective was to accelerate the development of traditional and alternative health care in the country.

Direct impact

That law encouraged scientific research on and the development of traditional and alternative health care systems that have direct impact on public health care.

The PITAHC holds office at the Department of Health. It holds seminars on herbal medicine, acupuncture and acupressure every Thursday at 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.

More math galore

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week we heard from readers about math concerns and suggestions. We continue on our mathematical track this week. Let us start with this empowering letter by Frank Largo (fmlargo@pacific.net.ph), who used to dislike math, but has seen the light.

I can safely say that the source of my early math aversion was the flashcard drills in grade school. I am not a quick thinker, so I did pretty poorly. But now, I am a graduate student in a field that utilizes mathematical principles regularly (economics). Now I love math not for its elegance as most mathematicians probably do, but for the clarity it brings to my field. Just my two cents worth. Thanks.

Sadly, your grade school experience is all too common. Our society has the misconception that people who are good in math are the so-called lightning calculators. Yes, speed is needed (for instance, tests are normally within time constraints), but it is not the determinant of mathematical ability. In fact, patience, diligence, perseverance are the necessary traits. The ability not to give up when the going gets tough is what distinguishes the math successes from the myriad failures. As for elegance, the mere fact that math brings clarity to your field is also a hallmark of its elegance. Thank you for sharing to other readers that childhood math aversion can be overcome.

* * *

Educator Myrna Dizon's letter to me, published on May 12, 2001 elicited positive reactions from readers. Jose S. Sandejas (jssandejas@mydestiny.net) issues this invitation to Ms Dizon.

I was quite happy that I happened to read today, as I often do, the column of Queena Lee-Chua, wherein she quoted your letter to her. I agree fully that young minds get turned off from math and science learning because of poorly prepared teachers, especially during the earliest learning years. One possible solution may be the use of audiovisual systems, which can be used to film effective communicators with great lesson plans. The classroom teacher can then supplement what was first shown on film.

From your letter, it seems to me that you have done precisely the programmed instruction I described above. If so, I would very much be interested to learn how we in some schools in the Philippines could avail of the output you have accomplished. Are your materials available for review and, if possible, sale later on? I am at present connected with several entities in education (primary and secondary) as well as with vocational training and applied research. Thanks and more power to you.

Mr. Sandejas is the president of Parents for Education Foundation Inc., a governing council member of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy, and a board member of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. I do hope he and Ms Dizon make contact.

However, a caveat. Many educators here believe that IT is the way to go. Yes, IT has its uses, but it can be improperly utilized, to the further detriment of education. For instance, I do not think there is a substitute for personalized (not computerized) teaching of math, at least in the elementary school level. There can also be no miracle cures for the ills affecting our educational system. There is no royal road to geometry, as Euclid sagely observed millennia ago. Only painstaking hard work (with good teachers) can ensure proper mathematical understanding.

* * *

Ms Chita Rosales, assistant dean for student affairs, who frequently e-mails me interesting mathematical anecdotes, now forwards to us these mathematical definitions from the Net:

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi.
2. 2,000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton.
3. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement: one bananosecond.
4. Weight an evangelist carries with God: one billigram.
5. Half of a large intestine: one semicolon.
6. 1,000 aches: one kilohurtz.
7. Basic unit of laryngitis: one hoarsepower.
8. One million microphones: one phone.
9. One million phones: one megaphone.
10. 2,000 mockingbirds: two kilomockingbirds.
11. 52 cards: 5.2 decacards.
12. Three statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University: one I.V. League.

Thanks, Chita, and keep them coming. Who says math can't be fun?

* * *

Adelina Cascaro (toekho@yahoo.com) asks about tips on math anxiety:

Kindly publish in the newspaper some topics about math anxiety, especially regarding college freshmen. I would like to use them for my thesis. Please give me some references.

I have been writing about math anxiety since my first article, "Why Be Afraid of Math," 10 years ago. Get hold of my book with the same name, and also "Eureka!" They should both be available at National Bookstore or Bookmark. You can also download tons of material about this from the Web. Just make sure the sites are linked to educational institutions. Good luck.

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes a Wednesday column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net. She can be reached at Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

ACHILLES Bone Densitometer

Medical center invests in modern equipment

DE LOS Santos Medical Center (Delomed) recently inaugurated its newly constructed 4-story medical building on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

With its 150-bed capacity, Delomed is offering a complete medical services and further expands through constant investment in its facilities. Medical director Efren De Los Santos said most people tend to ignore the importance of having a regular medical checkup. This is the primary reason that Delomed recently acquired the most advanced and state-of-the-art medical equipment that will provide an early diagnostic treatment to whatever illness the patients is suffering from.

One of these the Achilles Bone Densitometer. It is a portable unit that measures the bone mass or density through the hillbone. The equipment is particularly for women, aged 40 and above, since they are more susceptible to osteoporosis than most men. It can diagnose the fracture risk and without radiation exposure.

Hope for men with enlarged prostate

By Charles E. Buban

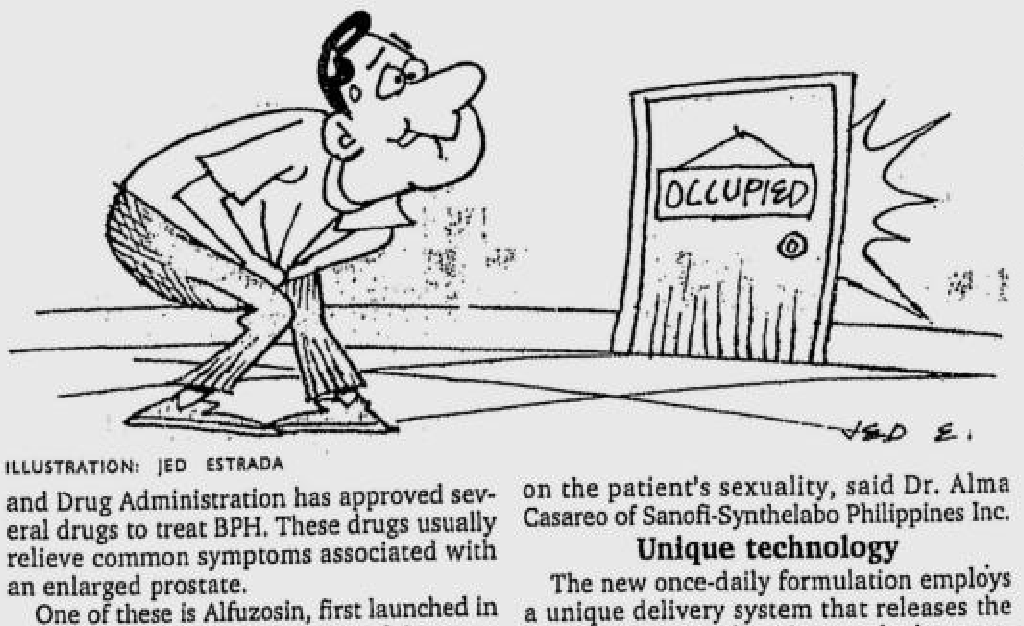

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

IS IT normal for a man over 50 to get up many times at night just to urinate or "relieve" himself more often during a long trip?

Yes, because it is common for the prostate gland to become enlarged as a man ages. Doctors call the condition benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

The prostrate gland goes through two main periods of growth: during early puberty, when it doubles in size and around age 25 when it begins to grow again.

When the prostate gland enlarges it acts like a clamp that presses against the urethra (the tube that carries urine from the bladder out through the penis) causing several urinary disorders.

BHP causes the bladder to contract even when it contains a small amount of urine, causing more frequent urination. Eventually, the bladder weakens and loses the ability to empty itself. Urine remains in the bladder and a feeling of incomplete emptying of the bladder hounds the person every now and then.

"The narrowing of the urethra and partial emptying of the bladder cause many of the problems associated with BPH," said Dr. Lester Garcia, president of the Philippine Urological Association. He added that these symptoms shouldn't be taken for granted since BPH may lead to kidney failure that require major surgery later on.

Drugs against BPH

Recently, several new medications have been tested in clinical trials and the US Food and Drug Administration has approved several drugs to treat BPH. These drugs usually relieve common symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate.

One of these is Alfuzosin, first launched in 1988 under the brand name Xatral. It comes in tablet form of two different doses to be taken two or three times a day.

It belongs to a new generation of uroselective drugs that only affects the lower urinary tract.

"These agents react specifically to the smooth muscles within the prostate gland that are responsible for the contraction that compresses the urethra," explained Dr. Juliano Panganiban of the Philippine Urological Association.

Drug manufacturer Sanofi-Synthelabo recently launched Xatral OD, a once-daily formulation of the same drug. It acts faster, is effective over the long term, and has no effect on the patient's sexuality, said Dr. Alma Casareo of Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines Inc.

Unique technology

The new once-daily formulation employs a unique delivery system that releases the drug's active ingredient in a gradual manner that lasts up to 20 hours. Xatral OD has three layers that dissolve at different times.

"The white central layer contains the active ingredient Alfuzosin while the two yellow layers that sandwich it have no therapeutic effect but aid in the delivery of the active ingredient," said Dr. Christine Geffriaud-Ricouard, Xatral medical manager of the company's Paris headquarters.

In the intestines, the erodable layer starts to wear out between the 4th and 10th hour after taking the tablet. From the 12th hour, the drug goes to the colon where the tablet completely disintegrates. After the 20th hour, the tablet has already dispensed all its active ingredient.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor ■ Stella O. Gonzales, Assistant Editor

CARDIAC REHABILITATION

Healing the heart and mind

By Tessa R. Salazar

A MAGAZINE editor had been complaining of increased pulse rate, shortness of breath and high blood pressure. Some doctors concluded that he had a heart problem. Others, however, said there was nothing wrong with him.

He was not convinced and went on to consult a clinical psychologist who specialized in cardiac rehabilitation. The psychologist's findings showed that his symptoms were actually provoked by anxiety and not by a heart problem.

A trial lawyer recently had a heart bypass. Her marital problems and work-related stress made it hard for her to recover. She had become demanding and irritable. Worse, her growing fear of death prevented her from engaging in normal physical activities like walking. She couldn't even sleep, fearing she would not wake up again. Her fear even prevented her from eating. She thought anything she did would trigger a heart attack.

Victims of heart attacks and those who have undergone heart surgeries often feel a lot more helpless and crippled by their disease than they actually should be.

Rehabilitation

Is there a way out of this fear?

Clinical psychologist-nurse Phebe Pendon, a Philippine Heart Center cardiac rehabilitation consultant, says there is—even for people who have actually experienced something as serious as a heart failure.

In a cardiac rehabilitation program, Pendon said, a team which includes a cardiologist, a dietitian and a counselor work to strengthen a patient's "will" by giving him generous doses of hope and making him see the meaning of life.

Because man is not just a physical being, Pendon said, the treatment has a multidisciplinary approach and is not just a mere medication program. A closely supervised regimen of physical exercise, diet, psychosocial and even psychospiritual modules make up the combined efforts of pharmacists, dietitians, psychologists, doctors and nurses.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Surivival chances

PHC nursing supervisor Junie Doronila said educating heart patients to have an active role in their own recovery and teaching them the proper way to take care of themselves are the main concerns of the center. She cited studies indicating that patients who are more knowledgeable about their condition have more chances of survival than those who do not.

Pendon, who helped establish the cardiac rehab section at the PHC, said many patients refuse to do anything after a heart attack or a heart bypass. She said this was due to a common misconception that once a person has a heart disease, he could easily have an attack anytime.

"People with heart disease are often dreadful of or threatened by the fact that something might happen to them," she said.

And even with family support, they still may not feel secure.

As a result, they have difficulty relating with other people and isolate themselves in the process, she said. It is important that patients know the stages they will go through during their period of recovery so they can handle their feelings.

Pendon said psychologists specializing in cardiac rehab should also be ready with different theories and principles when they deal with patients because of the complex problems of different types of people.

Runs in the blood

Pendon, who specialized in cardiac rehab for 12 years, trained in Canada, Argentina, the United States and Australia and now works as a vocational rehabilitation officer in the Veterans Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Manila.

Cardiac disease runs strong in her blood. Her father died of it at age 80, one brother at 43 and another at 52.

"That in itself drew me to the specialty because I saw the need," she said.

She encourages heart patients to enroll in cardiac rehabilitation programs, especially in PHC's newest heart failure program, because these would teach them how to take care of themselves.

"In Australia, there has been a marked decrease of mortality among heart failure patients because of patient education," she said.

The PHC program is comprehensive. It calls for a blend of physical, psychological and spiritual approaches.

Filipino patients are unique, Pendon observed, because they recognize the existence of God and His ability to help them. And this belief ultimately helps them in the healing process.

Warning signs of heart attack

Most common signals

- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
- Pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms.
- Chest discomfort with either lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

Less common signs

- A typical chest pain, stomach or abdominal pain.
- Nausea or dizziness (without chest pain).
- Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing (without chest pain).
- Unexplained anxiety, weakness or fatigue.
- Palpitations, cold sweat or paleness.

What to do in case of an attack

If you or someone you are with begins to have chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other symptoms of a heart attack, call an ambulance right away. Don't wait more than a few minutes—5 minutes at most—to call an ambulance. If you are having symptoms and cannot call an ambulance, have someone else drive you to the hospital right away. Never drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other choice.

You can save a life

A heart attack is a frightening event—you probably don't want to think about it. However, if you learn the signs of a heart attack and what steps to take, you can save a life—perhaps your own.

- The bad news

During a heart attack, a clot blocks the flow of blood to the heart. Heart muscle begins to die. The more time that passes without treatment, the greater the damage.

- The good news

Fortunately, clot-busting drugs and other artery-opening treatments can stop a heart attack in its tracks. Given immediately after symptoms begin, these treatments can prevent or limit damage to the heart. The sooner they are started, the more good they will do, and the greater the chances are of a full recovery. To be most effective, these treatments need to be given within one hour after heart attack symptoms begin.

American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Who are at risk?

In men, the risk for heart attack increases after age 45. In women, heart attacks are more likely to occur after menopause (usually, after about age 50).

Other factors that increase the risk for a heart attack:

- **A previous heart attack or angina**
- **Family history of early heart disease (father or brother diagnosed before age 55, mother or sister diagnosed before age 65)**
- **Diabetes**
- **High blood cholesterol**
- **High blood pressure**
- **Cigarette smoking**
- **Overweight**
- **Physical inactivity**

NATIONAL HEART, LUNG AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

How tall do you want to be?

By Charles E. Buban

TALL. That's what we all want to be, right?

Well, here's good news for the vertically challenged out there: you can still gain a few extra centimeters without resorting to elevated shoes.

St. Luke's Medical Center's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine recently announced a collaborative effort with two German institutions showcasing the latest technology in limb lengthening and straightening called Fitbone.

Through the Fitbone technique, an individual can gain up to 180 mm in height in about six months.

Fitbone technology was originally intended to correct shortened or deformed limb bones caused by injury, disease or other causes like congenital defect.

"It can be applied to 'stretch' both the upper and lower bones of the legs and even the bone of the upper arms, and some patients who underwent the procedure have achieved greater height," reports Fitbone innovator, Dr. Augustin Betz of the Ludwig-Maximilians University Klinikum Innenstadt in Munich.

Safer, simpler

Wittenstein intens GmbH, the manufacturer of Fitbone instruments, in partnership with the Munich hospital, chose St. Luke's as one of five medical institutions in Asia authorized to perform this breakthrough procedure. Other countries that have this exclusive arrangement are Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea.

According to the surgeons at St. Luke's, the Fitbone procedure is much safer to use and simpler to perform compared to the conventional bone extension surgery methods known today.

"The Fitbone instrument is a fully implantable device with self-contained intramedullary nail and wireless power supply," explains St. Luke's Dr. Mario Ver.

Fitbone uses a steel implant that gradually lengthens when activated by a wireless control unit. The devise is inserted into the hollow of a bone that has been cut crosswise.

The device, activated by the remote control unit, increases in length at 1 mm a day. The bone's cut ends grow and fuse eventually.

"The operation takes about two hours to complete and the patient can be discharged in four to five days. When the desired length is reached, it would take about three months more for the bone to gain its normal strength," says Betz, who visited the country last week to introduce the technology.

'Stretching' bones

The Fitbone procedure follows the principle that when a bone is cut and the two parts are pulled apart very slowly, the defect that is produced is filled with newly generated bone tissue, which results in controlled lengthening of the bone.

Although the lengthening process is often called "stretching," the bone is not actually stretched. Instead, the very small amount of tension that the frame exerts on the bone stimulates the bone to grow, filling the gradually enlarging gap with new bone material. Similarly, the surrounding muscles, nerves, skin and blood vessels also grow.

Bone distraction has been a successful treatment for people who had accidents.

Perhaps the only downside to this procedure is the cost of operation.

St. Luke's has yet to quote a price for the entire procedure but in Bangkok, where the first Fitbone surgery in Asia was performed, the cost reached a stratospheric $50,000 (or about P2.5 million).

The case of the abused heart and lungs

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

VALENTINE'S day is just around the corner but Rose S. is hardly looking forward to it. Aside from the fact that she is doomed to celebrate Valentine's Day alone because of her recent breakup with her boyfriend, she is also too busy taking care of her dear grandfather.

Lolo Robert, Rose's guardian since her parents had separated and gotten remarried, was sick with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and a heart complication called *cor pulmonale.* It had been almost a year since his lungs failed him and now it looked that even his heart was starting to give up.

COPD is a smoker's disease and Lolo Robert literally caused himself to have it by being a two-pack-a-day smoker for 30 years. For Rose, Lolo Robert was the perfect grandpa, except for this one vice. She had tried to make him quit smoking but eventually gave up and just allowed him to enjoy his puffing.

Lolo Robert ignored what he heard and read about the dangers of cigarette smoking. Rose wasn't a bit worried, too. After all, it didn't seem to do her *lolo* any harm.

Smoker's cough

What Rose didn't know was that for quite sometime, her *lolo* had been bothered by persistent cough, especially in the morning. Sometimes, he even found himself gasping for breath. Rose was usually out working so it was easy for Lolo Robert to hide his condition from her. He ignored them as well. He dismissed the cough, saying it was only the "usual" smoker's cough, and he continued puffing like a chimney.

Over breakfast one weekend, Rose noticed that her *lolo's* eating was constantly interrupted by cough. It was full of phlegm and when Lolo Robert spit it out there was blood.

Rose then took her *lolo* to the hospital. It was the day that changed both their lives. The doctor diagnosed Lolo Robert as having severe COPD with heart complications. The diagnosis seemed like a death sentence.

COPD symptoms

COPD is characterized by progressive obstruction of the airways, leading to irreversible lung damage. It may present clinically as either chronic bronchitis or emphysema, or both.

In Lolo Robert's case, his COPD was predominantly chronic bronchitis, which explained his constant cough with phlegm.

Patients with COPD generally experience shortness of breath or dyspnea. Other symptoms include wheezing, prolonged coughing with phlegm especially in the morning, frequent chest colds and upper respiratory infection. This is why COPD is considered one of the most debilitating diseases in the world today.

COPD is a long-term disease and has no definitive cure. Its symptoms can only be relieved or alleviated with medicines. They can be controlled, but only by those who manage the disease well through lifestyle modification and treatments such as bronchodilators and oxygen therapy.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Heavy load

Longstanding COPD increases the pressure in the lungs and produces pulmonary hypertension. It imposes a heavy load to the right side of the heart, causing the right ventricle to enlarge. This results in a complication of COPD called *cor pulmonale,* or pulmonary heart disease (PHD).

The right ventricle eventually fails and causes right-sided heart failure which manifests as engorged neck veins, leg swelling or edema, and abdominal enlargement due to fluid (ascitis) and liver congestion (hepatomegaly).

Such was the case of Lolo Robert. He neglected not only his lungs but his heart as well.

The heart and the lungs are close neighbors in the human body system and as such, it cannot be helped if problems in their functions affect each other. Reserves of blood in the lungs and the lungs' ability to move them through the circulatory system and assist the heart's functions during exertion bind the heart and the lungs as one interrelated system.

Vulnerable to smoking

Another thing that the heart and lungs have in common is their vulnerability to the harmful effects of smoking. Of all the organs, the heart and the lungs are the most exposed to poisonous cigarette fumes because these are inhaled through the lungs, making breathing difficult and pumping of blood laborious. The toxic contents of cigarette smoke also destroy the fragile components of these two organs.

Cigarette smoking can cause various diseases, including COPD and pulmonary heart disease.

Cor pulmonale, or PHD, occurs in 25 percent of patients with COPD. In fact, about 85 percent of patients diagnosed with PHD have COPD.

The damage to the lungs causes the right ventricle to compensate for the extra work required to pump blood through the lungs. The right ventricle has thin walls and is crescent-shaped. The resulting high pressure in the lungs causes the right ventricle to dilate and bulge, eventually leading to its failure.

PHD should be expected in patients with COPD and other respiratory or neuromuscular diseases. Initial symptoms may include chronic coughing, wheezing, weakness, fatigue and shortness of breath. Edema (the abnormal buildup of fluid usually in the legs), weakness and discomfort in the upper chest may also be evident in PHD.

Glimmer of hope

Unfortunately, the prognosis for PHD is poor, particularly because it occurs late in the process of a serious disease like COPD. This condition is currently considered incurable. Many persons live 10-15 years after diagnosis, but disability will slowly increase.

However, the symptoms can be relieved or controlled. And the doctor gave Lolo Robert this glimmer of hope.

First, the doctor prescribed bronchodilators to ease out the obstruction in his air passage. He subjected Lolo Robert to oxygen therapy.

He also made him undergo pulmonary rehabilitation to increase his breathing capacity, improve his quality of life, reduce respiratory symptoms, increase tolerance in physical activity and improve functional capacity.

On the other hand, PHD treatment is aimed at increasing the patient's exercise tolerance level and improving oxygen levels of the arterial blood. Treatment is also focused on the underlying condition that is producing PHD. Common treatments include antibiotics for respiratory infection, anticoagulants to reduce the risk of blood clots (thromboembolism), and digitalis, diuretics, oxygen, a low-salt diet and restricted fluids for right-sided heart failure.

However, smoking cessation is still the mainstay in the treatment of COPD and PHD. Lolo Robert knows it is too late now and he deeply regrets lighting up his first stick, but for COPD patients, it's never too late to stop. Kicking the vice relatively improves the outcome of patients at any stage.

Hearty thought

Lolo Robert is now actively participating in the management of his COPD and PHD. Rose is always by his side helping him cope with his struggle. She cannot deny the fact that someday, her Lolo Robert will leave her but until then, she promises to help make things better for him.

So for smokers, here's a "hearty" thought on Valentine's Day: the heart is the most hardworking organ in our body, pumping nonstop with approximately 100,000 beats daily to sustain life. The least we can do to show our appreciation for our overworked heart is to avoid things that will make it work harder.

Quit smoking and give your heart a big break this Valentine's Day.

élan [é la'] flair, distinction, class

Editor **Marge Enriquez**

Art Director **Howard Borja**

Love need not be a battlefield

By Marge C. Enriquez

LOVE, the way it is hyped, is a companionable, al beit sexual partnership that can lead to our com pleteness. Indeed, a special partnership can be a broadening experience—given that certain emotional challenges, common between two people, can be hurdled.

That's a narrow definition of love. In its highest sense, love is the most genuine expression of our being, encompassing friends and foes.

London-based lecturer and life coach Mike George debunks the myth that love is the universal grail that will transform our life. On the contrary, we actually use need as a torch to search for the elusive gift of love. Sometimes need is disguised in the form of asserting that we have so much love to offer. The truth is, we have this deep yearning for love, and a fear of remaining in this state of ungratified desire.

George has authored books on relaxation, stress-free living and meditation for professionals. In his recent visit to the Philippines, he pointed out in a workshop on emotional intelligence that human beings have yet explore the real meaning of love. *(see related story on C3)*

"In every human heart, there is a source of life—love. It's the core energy of every human being, regardless of how bad he or she is on the surface. The worst terrorist in the world will, at least, once a year go to a department store, buy a gift, wrap it beautifully and put a card and take it to somebody in their life. People have been looking for love in the wrong places when it's been in their hearts all along."

> Hyped and overrated, love may either result in dependency and self-centeredness or bliss and contentment

Many have let the love of another person define their worth to an extent that if they are rejected, they lose their self-esteem and their aspiration in life. Even if the couple lives together, the relationship may contain some elements of fear due to attachment.

"People can get bound to a set of beliefs. This attachment distorts love into anger. When there's attachment, fear is present. It chases love away. It's not possible to love and be scared at the same time," said George.

Worrying is not love

What happens when the wife waits for her husband who comes home late? She gets upset because he didn't arrive on time. He replies, "Leave me alone. I'm fine." She retorts, "I worry about you because I care."

George pointed out that this is fear, and fear is an illusion of love. In reality, fear is not love.

"Worry is fantasized 'catastrophising.' I create the worst possible outcome in my mind and I use it to frighten myself. This is how we get it mixed up. We think fear is love. Then we spend our whole life worrying, worrying and worrying. What a waste of time and energy," said George.

Worrying is borne out of attachment to another person or an object. "Attachment is not love," George stressed.

"Attachment takes my freedom away. That's why I'm not happy because I don't feel free. If I get attached to anything, I become a slave to the object of attachment. So I need to learn to detach. However, detachment is often misconstrued as losing something. Humans like to hold on to things," he explained.

"Detachment restores the awareness of my true self, so I learn to detach from anything in my life. Most people find that difficult because when we think we have to be detached it means to be cold and uncaring. Remember that love is caring. Attachment creates fear, and fear chases away love. The paradox to love is that I have to be detached. To rediscover love, I have to learn to be detached from things."

Misused word

George said love is an oft-misused word. People are such suckers to how love is portrayed in the movies—an emotion that unites people and convinces them that they can live happily ever after.

"Love usually means—the movie. In every script, the man tells the woman, 'Oh darling, I love you.' What does it really mean? 'I want you.' This is desire which is some kind of attachment or some kind of identification or dependence."

It is not surprising that a relationship turns sour due to attachment, ego or resentment, given the emotional roots of attraction. In long-term relationships, the cracks start showing later, as if caused by earth tremors along a fault line.

The main cause of relationship problems is identifying with someone else. "When I lose my true sense of self, I lose connection with my own true awareness of truth, true love, true peace, and true happiness. I lose that connection with truth, which we all have within us. Identification with something or with someone makes me think and act in the wrong way. This is how sin is committed because I have lost the awareness of my true self."

George defines pure love as "an upwelling from the depths of the inner self." It is an energy that the soul sends in all directions.

"True love is not wanting something in return. That's not love; that's business. We give but there's a hidden agenda. I'm expecting something. This is not coming for free. I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine. I love you, if you love me. Very quickly there will be a little fear in it too because I'll be scared if I don't get it back," he explained.

Feeling vs. emotion

"Love is not an emotion," George said. "It's a state of being. It's a state of motivation. It's not a disturbance. When I'm emotional, I'm disturbed. I'm not controlling anything. When I love truly, then I'm giving without wanting anything back. Sharing, caring, cooperating, giving, listening, giving value, accepting are just some of the ways of pressing out love in my heart. It's coming from inside out. If we cultivate self-awareness, we are sealed against the caustic effects of emotions."

George made a distinction be-

LOVE/pC3

Rare, rich and eligible C2

Indulgence with a conscience C6

Everything gets kicking in the Year of the Horse D2

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Rare, rich and eligible

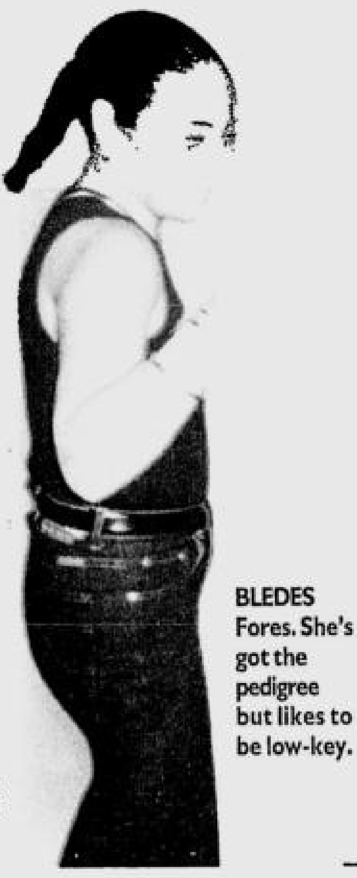
By Dos Rios

THIS was something we hesitated to write about, seeing how so many in my field of vision either spewed out the usual boring names in the conventional fields of endeavor—politics, fashion, tired clambering (I'll pay for my picture to come out!), mostly nouveau riche society and worst local movies (yuck!)—or retorted, "What, are there still any? Aren't they all kinda limp?"—when asked for their list of who's-who eligibles in this country.

The degree of one's eligibility, in my book, increases proportionately with one's desire to stay out of sight, and be hip and cool by just being what one is as one enjoys quietly what one does in his or her own personal realm of coolness. There is also something so irrationally desirable about some people's nonchalance, which is the very thing that allows them to get noticed by people and eventually lands them in a list such as this. Those were the guiding lights that provided us with some guide as we pursued this subject.

An obstacle that had to be hurdled in crafting this out was the attitude of some of those we approached for article. Some were adamantly against their being in the list, and understandably so, because they were either extremely sensitive (paranoid, perhaps, is the more apt word) about their names coming out for reasons of security, or were coy, or just plainly thinking the whole thing might be taken to indicate being *declassé* on their part! I sympathize with most of the reasons put forth by those who were adamant about not coming out. But in life, there are certain things one just do—one being when my editor says, "Do it!" You realize that there is a certain virtue—and classiness—to being merely simple about things and well, just obey.

They are sought after for their good looks, breeding and wealth. They belong to the exclusive set that cries out, 'Come and get us'



BLEDES Fores. She's got the pedigree but likes to be low-key.

However, I set out certain conditions in haphazardly—almost unwillingly —searching for appropriate personalities to put in this short list. We've already mentioned above one principal guiding light, so to speak. Also, we thought we should consider in terms of criteria a certain nonchalance, indifference, if you will, to society, as this odious word connotes locally; serene dynamism—which means that our choices have never been known to lose their composure in public; certainly, the predictable good looks, and to a comfortable degree, particularly as it concerns the bachelors in the list—enough resources to be able to match and/or afford the (upwardly mobile) lifestyles of the young ladies we put on the list. Such resources we're talking about could be well-earned and, okay, we'll allow inherited—but the kind that is being put to good use and certainly not ill-gotten, heavens!

We also thought that a premium criterion would be the freshness our choices—in other words, they've never yet been unearthed for the consumption of society columns basically. However, there were instances when we compromised a bit on this aspect particularly as it pertained to some of our choices whose names and faces had come out before, but because of their perceived innate coolness, deserved to be included just the same.

Topmost in this category, for instance, are **Bledes Araneta Fores** and her ex-beau, **Tito Yulo Locsin**, the younger of the two **Locsin** brothers sired by the late famous architect from Silay, Negros Occidental and National Artist, **Leandro Locsin**, and the formidably and truly materially endowed Canlubang Sugar Estate heiress and renaissance woman (scuba diver, archaeologist, classical pianist, environment conservationist—among other things) **Cecile Yulo Locsin**. The very quiet **Tito** is **Bledes**' distant relative. Or perhaps, not too distant, seeing how **Fores'** maternal grandfather, the late **Don Amado Araneta**, was the elder brother of **Tito**'s grandmother, **Doña Cecilia Araneta**, the first beloved wife of class-personified **Don Jose Yulo**, patriarch of the clan, members of whom (except for one who had enough color in his personality as to get embroiled with the past disgraced administration and a few others whose personal businesses are so big, you can't put them under wraps forever) rarely come out in Manila's society pages.

Sociable

Bledes—along with those of her two elder sisters, **Margarita** and **Veanna**, and mom, *primus inter pares* icon of coolness, the very blue chip **Baby Araneta Fores**—lands in society columns—never negatively, of course, but rather, name held with some awe especially by those who know, really know—because the **Aranetas** are just a little bit more sociable than their very reserved, very withdrawn and equally fabulous wealthy cousins, the **Yulos**, who love to party among themselves and only with extremely close friends—as they did two Sundays ago at the end of the annual Jose Yulo Memorial Cup tournament at the 36-hole Canlubang Golf & Country Club, which sits on over 7,000 hectares of prime land in Laguna—the family's private enclave, some portions of which have been developed into what is known as the site of the first industrial estate in the country.

BEA Valdes. Her parents' families ran a prestigious accounting firm and jewelry business. Beneath the China doll looks and a Pilates-conditioned body, lies talent. She not only has flair in dressing up and decorating but also in writing.

If the **Yulos** have Canlubang, **Fores'** family in the side of *abuelito*, has sprawling Cubao in Quezon City as source for their deep coffers. Imagine thousands of establishments paying commercial business fees to one family and you'll have an idea what kind of largesse we're talking about. Put into the doggie bag likewise several hundreds of square meters in the toniest addresses in Manhattan, New York City, property in Mr. Cisco, in upstate New York, and your previous exclamations of fabulous pale, honey.

Because you don't have a clue to what fabulous means until you see how a family like this—possessed with all that old unstolen money as they have—live.

FRESH face. Alexis Abello.

We would've wanted to highlight here a prominent member of the clan—**Mar Roxas**, who is, predictably, everyone's choice where male eligibility is concerned, but hey, **Mar**, you've been so oft-mentioned and so elusive for so long, it's no longer a funny joke! Now, if his late beloved younger brother **Gerardo Roxas Jr.** (who **Mar** succeeded in the world of politics and public service) were still around, then he'd be an excellent choice. No offense, **Mar**, it's just that the late lamented **Dinggoy** was younger and looked a little heftier.

Cool young things (CYTs) in this age of chill include another not so unfamiliar person, National Bookstore and primest of prime real estate property heir **Anton Ramos**, who has distinguished himself in his own right in music. He maintains a huge collection of CDs (the numbers might have changed, but last we spoke, it was some 5,000 CDs and still growing). He also conducts twice-a-year jaunts to Japan, the US and Europe where he forages for his kind of music. The last has led him to put up Music One, which is the country's premier source for cool material—bar none.

He has his gig over FM radio, "The ChillOut Project," where he espouses his kind of music and is spinmeister in that icon of cool class, Wasabi, where chill music in the country began. The guy is also negotiating to buy out the people who brought Tower Records to the country. If there's anyone in a position to take over that establishment, it's **Anton**.

Enigma

A choice, if only because of his elusiveness and the general air of enigma about him, is fine cigar connoisseur and expensive motorcar aficionado **Victor Tambunting**, an heir to the pawnshop fortune. He is the only person we know who can get away with stepping inside the chic interiors of that chamber of cool, Wasabi, in white T-shirt, walking shorts, driving loafers and his huge St. Bernard on lease (aside from Canlubang Estate heir, **Coy Quiros del Rio**, who wears rubber slippers inside the ultra-exclusive Canlubang Golf & Country Club clubhouse—but then he's part owner of the entire caboodle, so what the heck—it's not the same).

But mind you, between parachuting out of a plane in Guam, climbing Mt. Banahaw half-naked with his younger brother **Joey** (arguably better looking and certainly, without any debate, the faster climber), **Victor**'s traipses around Makati, his place of residence, and driving at daredevil speed in his flaming late-model red Ferrari (which he has of late, sold for a wee bit more modest late-model Mercedes Benz sports car) around town, the guy never does his thing to show off—not for anyone else's consumption his behavior —he's just being the **Victor**.

Tall, athletic, good-looking and bespectacled **Victor**, aside from being one of the most driven guys there is, in terms of work and sports—of the extreme kind—is also hilariously irreverent. Such attributes certainly do not prevent nice, young, proper and likewise eligible girls like **Michelle Lichauco** from being seen out with him on occasion. Don't let that devil-may-care exuberance

RARE/PC6

Bachelors at large

Text and photos by Raul Teehankee

DO a family fortune and background make you a prize catch? Although money isn't everything, people are still attracted to the allure of social status. But in the new millennium, people are weary of materialism and are now looking deepyly into the attributes of the so-called eligible.

Beyond looks and position, reponsbility and a promising future are other pre-requisites . Here's our list:

ANTON Gonzalez is striking out on his own in the business world. As the eldest son of businessman and former Tourism Secretary Tony Gonzalez, he has put up his own business and even pays for his father's bills.

SHERWIN Gatchalian is one of the youngest solons in the country. His family owns a chain of hotels and an airline company.

JUAMI Rocha is one of the youngest golfing winners in the country today.

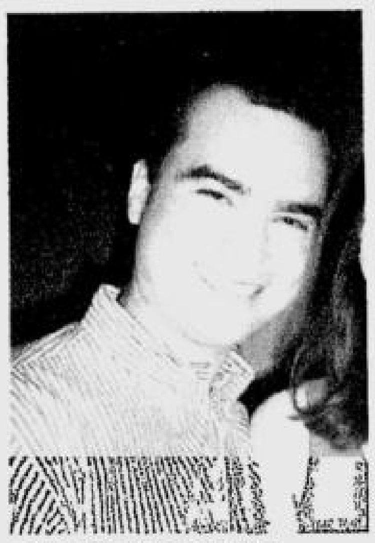
DENNIS Mendiola is more than just Lea Salonga's former beau. He has a lot more going for him especially in the financial world.

JUAN Miguel Ongsiako is one of the most elusive bachelors of the Philippines. He runs several businesses, the most popular of which are Paul Smith and a couple of furniture stores.

ALAN Escaño is the man behind Road Runner, the most progressive editing company in the Philippines. Name any award-winning film of late and most of the editing and special effects were created in his editing company.

JUAN Miguel Zubiri belongs to the old rich clan of Bukidnon and mom, Vicky is the daughter of the prominent Dr. Manuel Fernandez. He is a two-term congressman who advocates environmental issues.

JASON Webb got his genes from former basketball star and senator Freddie Webb. The 6'1 professional basketball player is rumored to be earning millions from the sport.



NACHO Garcia works for AsiaTrans Forwarding company of which he is part owner of the family-owned corporation.

ANTON Ramos. The 27-year-old entrepreneur whose family owns the National Bookstore chain would rather rock than read. He opened the first contemporary music store and formed Music First, a management firm that aims to give the local Tower Records a shot in the arm.

JUAN Elizalde belongs to the prominent Elizalde clan and runs a successful radio station. This looker manages a vast tract of beachfront property in Boracay.

GIL Coscolluela. This good-looking architect brings the ambience of New York to the retail establishments. He also helped in building RCBC Plaza, the most elegant building in Makati.

Getting emotional about Emotional Quotient

LONG before he became a management consultant and life coach, Mike George was in the army.

"I must have had something a little loose in here," said the lecturer from the United Kingdom in jest, pointing to his head. George visited the Philippines some time ago to hold a series of workshops, including one on "Emotional Intelligence."

As he was doing basic army training with 20 others, George noticed that a colleague, Private White, displayed eccentric behavior by breaking the ranks and wandering around by himself. Over a few days, he would repeatedly pick up a piece of paper from the ground and mutter, "That's not it."

Because of his unusual behavior, he was brought to the doctor. Private White would look at the clutter in the clinic, look through the papers and murmur, "No, that's not it." He even went to the wastebasket to rummage through the scraps of paper. He shook his head. "No, that's not it."

Private White's conduct was deemed as insubordination. One day, he was sent to the brigadier who told him, "Private White, we're really sorry. We've tried everything to help you, but there's nothing we can do. Here are your discharge papers."

Private White looked at the pages and exclaimed, "That's it!"

Creation

It turned out that Private White got creative in getting out of the army. When you're in a restrictive environment like the army, chances are you'll be very unhappy as people start ordering you around and start trying to control you. Sometimes the atmosphere in the office is no different from a barrack.

Life coach Mike George says negative emotions are linked with the ego or one's self-image

Private White got smart. When he broke from the ranks, he kept quiet to listen to his intuition. He let ideas bubble in his head and stewed them on his mind until he found a tack to take charge of his destiny and his own life.

When people are in a similar situation, the usual reaction is to get irritated. The feeling turns to frustration and builds to anger and rage.

"Why does this disturbance inside completely control our consciousness? It's because we forget that we are the creators. We are responsible for how we respond to life around us. No one else is responsible. My responsibility begins with the two most important aspects of my creation—thoughts and feelings. The reason there's anger, frustration and loathing in the currency of human relationship is that nobody has taught us that we are in control of our thoughts and feelings," said George.

"Maybe you know this already. No one makes me feel anything without my permission. It's not what you say or do that makes me feel this way. It's what I do with what you do or say to me that make me feel this way. At the moment I give you my power or my destiny. This is what happens so quickly for must of us," he said.

Difficult person

George explained that for so long, IQ had been on top of the intelligence pyramid. Today logic and reason are insufficient in running organizations. "There's no such thing as loyalty anymore. Trust is a rare commodity in our relationships at work. If you're leading people, you have to use a different kind of intelligence to build a relationship with your fellow human beings. This is why understanding emotions have become more important than before."

Dominating others is another cause of misery. People tend to project problems on others instead of taking responsibility for their own behavior.

"Do you all know who your DP (Difficult Person) is? You have a mental picture of how you want him or her to act. When you hold on to that picture, you will want to control him or her. Then that party doesn't want to do what you want them to do. You are disturbed. This is emotion–energy in motion. It's a disturbance in your consciousness over which you have no control at that moment. The reason is that you're trying to control something you cannot control. Usually it's other people." The secret of managing emotion is simple—don't control anyone.

George cited that emotion has "families," namely, anxiety, which turns into tension that then turns into fear and, at worst, depression. To be free from disturbance inside, one needs to know where the emotion comes from.

Emotions are created by the ego, which has become everybody's lifelong companion.

"Psychiatrists and psychologists will say you've got to have a healthy ego in life to make your presence felt. From a spiritual viewpoint, ego is unhealthy and should be dealt with. It is the enemy in our life," said George.

Ego

What is the ego? It occurs when you start identifying your self-image with your status, clothes, possessions, achievements and even intelligence.

"Ego is that attachment to the wrong self-image of myself and whatever I get attached to. Now think of all the things through the day that you get a little bit attached to and lose yourself in. Do you find yourself arguing with somebody occasionally? That means you have an opinion. Before you know it, you're fighting for your opinion and others are asserting theirs."

George pointed out that fear is behind this defense mechanism. "Fear is ruling the consciousness, thoughts, feelings and behavior. Why? Because I got attached to one opinion and I'm defending it. It's as if I'm that opinion."

This is how people experience emotional disturbance, which, unfortunately, is considered normal. Fear and stress have become accepted as part of life.

In his book, "Learn to Relax," George explained, "If our own inner world is in chaos, a turbulent mass of anxieties, fears and emotional baggage, it is very easy to blame our stress on others: as we project it, so it comes back to us, like a far-flung boomerang. Only by sending out positive signals from ourselves can we be free from the negative emotions of others. In this way restore relaxation within ourselves-feeling good inside and good about the people around us."

Regaining control

How does one start being a master of his thoughts and feelings?

George relates his anecdote about the disciple and his guru. One day he asked his teacher, "Please give me one word to help me on the path of enlightenment."

The guru, who has chilling out in silence, wrote on a piece of paper, "Awareness."

The disciple was excited. As he walked away from the guru, he was still unclear, "Could you please enlarge this for me?" The guru smiled and wrote, "A-W-A-R-E-N-E-S-S" in bold letters. The disciple was happy but then something struck him. He asked the guru, "What exactly does awareness mean?"

The guru wrote, "Awareness, awareness, awareness means awareness. Thank you."

The moral: Nothing changes in our lives until we become aware. "Most of us are not even aware of what's happening in us because they happen so regularly in our lives. Emotional intelligence is actually awareness," he said.

George returned to the example of Private White who, although miserable in the army, did not rebel and cry, "I hate it here. I don't like the people and what they're doing. I'm fed up."

If he had whined and complained, Private White would have only ended up as the victim. He practiced self-control, another skill of Emotional Quotient. "When he sat down, he controlled his state of consciousness and brought deep peace into his mind. When the mind is peaceful, it's very powerful. We don't normally equate peace with power. We think peace is passive and submissive," said George.

When facing a crisis, the mind is like a man encountering a tiger in the jungle. The normal reaction is to be afraid of being eaten up by the wild animal. However there are other alternatives to conquering the tiger such as standing still, walking slowly to the side or roaring louder the tiger.

"I always have several options in every situation in my life. This is called possibility thinking. Who creates fear? That means I'm not controlling my mind. And so, self-control is what brings back my peace inside. It's impossible to be creative when you're scared. It's only when I have peace in my mind that I can be creative. Who or what are the tigers in your life? Sometimes it's people or circumstances. I become afraid because I've lost my state of mind. Self-awareness and self-control restore the ability to be creative."

5 A's

Awareness. When an emotion comes, realize that it may be a price for what you did yesterday.

Acknowledge the emotion.

Acceptance. Never fight with your emotions. The reason for conflict today is that everyone resists everybody else. It's the same with yourself and your emotions. To create harmony, accept the emotion, so that the bad energy will be dissipated.

MIKE George. Tune in.

Ascend. Rise above it. This is called detachment. If you wash a plant, it grows. Take the energy away, it dies. This is the same with emotion. When anger comes up, pull back. Energy dies under observation. All emotions dissolve when they are under your surveillance.

Attune. The quietest place in a typhoon is in the eye. Where is the eye of your storm? In the center of your consciousness.

"Tuning in was all that Private White did, and he got what he wanted," said George. ***Marge C. Enriquez***

Love need not be a battlefield

(From page C1)

tween "emotion" and "feeling" which are often used interchangeably. Emotions are blind but feelings can perceive. "Emotion is agitation. Feeling is perception."

Emotions come from our basal nature and can get out of control. Emotions, led by the ego, are like kidnappers that have taken our true spiritual nature as hostage. It is easy to recognize gross emotions such as anger and jealousy. However, it is difficult to detect other emotions such as passion and pride, which although may make people temporarily feel good can be harmful. All these emotions are forms of attachment, which yank us away from our true nature of peace, toward a world of egotistical responses.

Love consists of looking both inwards and outwards

Love is often misconstrued as "the supreme emotion." In reality, true love conquers its emotional foundation and draws strength and character from the spirit.

"Love'" in the initial stages of a relationship is more likely to signify desire, attachment and dependency. For true love to develop after the initial heat of emotions there needs a cool environment. We need to look at things dispassionately as if watching a movie and not be carried away by the scenes. We also need to understand the difference between emotions and feeling.

Agapé

"Feeling is the warm, sensitive route to the truth," said George. It is the point between the heat of emotion and the coldness of rational intellect.

Everything boils down to understanding the self and developing positive qualities. When we are brimming with positive energy, love just flows and everybody gains from it.

"We have to teach ourselves to feel ourselves first before we can feel others. Mystics, sages and saints have been saying be quiet, listen into yourself and feel the qualities in our own spirit—love, peace, contentment. The moment you create these qualities, you're feeling yourself at the deepest level of your spirit," said George.

The most powerful energy in the universe is love transmitted through the mind.

"The capacity to pick up someone else's feelings, moods, attitudes is a spiritual skill at the deepest level. It translates into a relationship skill called empathy. I can pick up your deepest feelings. An unspoken empathy links everyone in a limitless potential for love and happiness."

Mature love for someone involves, body, mind and soul. It implies that we recognize the other party as an independent entity, yet at the same time, there is a two-way exchange of openness and empathy that gives both parties possibilities for growth.

George succinctly summarizes love in his book "Discover Inner Peace," "Love consists not of gazing at each other in a swoon of dependency, but of looking both inwards and outwards, sharing each others' insights and also the larger love—agapé—for all our fellows. To sustain such a relationship requires openness and independence of spirit."

(Inner Space is holding a free workshop on "Time Out: Give Yourself a Break" on Feb. 16 at 9 to 10:30 a.m. Located at 7484 Bagtikan Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City. For details call 890-7960.)

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The Essences of existence

To relieve themselves of the oppressiveness of everyday existence—with its revolutions, coup rumors, kidnappings and politics—Filipinos turn to self-pampering. Eager to be of assistance is Essences

WHEN the going gets tough, Filipinos pamper themselves. This explains the boost in sales of personal care products, as well as the success of Essences, the beauty bar at Rustan's Makati.

To cope with the increasing stress levels in city living, many retail establishments and gyms are incorporating services that offer relaxation and sensory enhancement. A few years ago, Rustan's Makati introduced Institute Clarins, a full spa service in the annex.

Essences was launched last year amid uncertainty. It opened in January during the build-up to Edsa Dos. Despite the rallies and problems of peace and order, the Filipino consumer seemed oblivious. The shop's sales more than doubled.

For one, the concept was unique. It presented alternative personal care brands created by entrepreneurs who were passionate about their vision to promote well-being. The treatment rooms offered spa services using plant-based products. Essences is fully booked for the facials and massages, and the waiting list for clients is long. The most popular service is the 20-minute back rub for the customer in a hurry, or the man who's waiting for his shopaholic wife. Water Source, a dehydration treatment, is the best seller.

The Tea Bar, run by chef Markus Gffler, based its menu on the best recipes from spas. The bestseller is romaine lamb tortilla sandwich, adapted from the Canyon spa's dish in Arizona.

When the store changed its layout, by widening the lounge space and lessening the shelves, sales increased their yield.

Rhoda Campos, Rustan's division manager for cosmetics and toiletries, says Essences' concept is not brand-driven. Customers buy the products because of their treatment benefits, not because of the prestige image.

She cites some of the most-sought after brands:

John Masters Organics. This hair care product uses only the highest-grade organic products.

Comfort Zone Action Sublime. This Italian product is touted by beauty buffs as one of the most effective and safest in maintaining a youthful glow.

Joey New York. This brand targets the baby boomers. Its unique selling point is that it does the job of a botox and collagen injections, at a fraction of the cost. The eyelift gel is said to keep droopy eyelids from dropping to the floor. The lip treatment gives the illusion of pouty lips.

Brandt. This skin-care range used by Madonna lives up to its promise of providing youth in a bottle.

Vinolift. This treatment draws its power from grapes. It's great for reducing puffiness in the face.

Acca Kappa. Oprah Winfrey touted this as the best toothpaste in the world as it cleans the teeth and is non-abrasive.

Hot Toe Voodoo. This is a foot treatment that's great for insomniacs. Soak the stones in hot water, apply scrub, lotion and massage oil. Rub your toes and soles, and apply pressure.

Badger Sore Muscle Rub. For the tired executive, this oil contains cayenne pepper to spike tired nerves.

Serendipity. This bath line was inspired by the famous dessert store in New York.

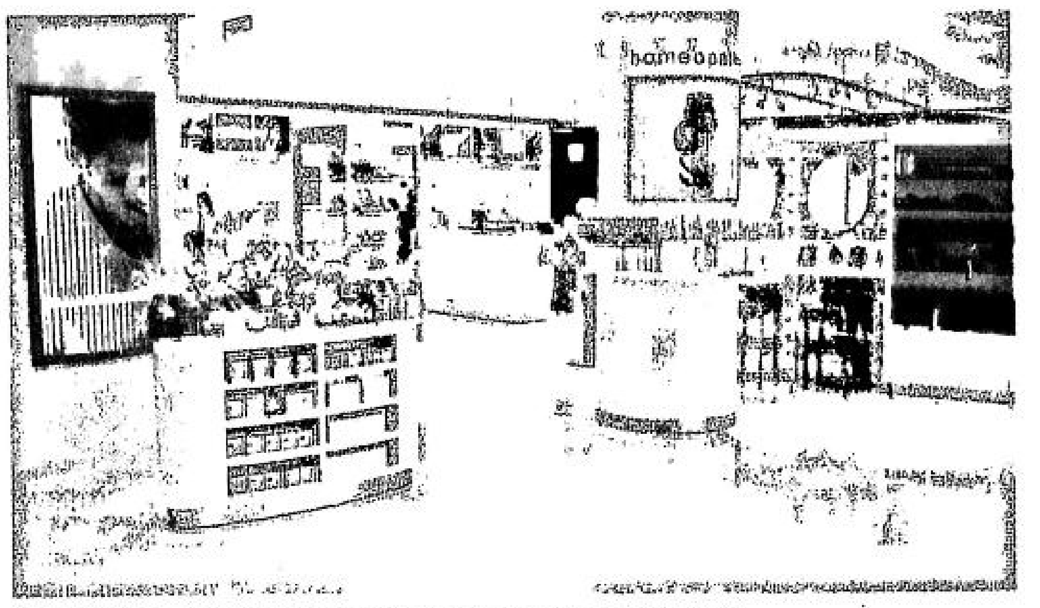
Cliven Natura. The bath and body line is affordable, as it is enjoyable.

Diptyque scented candles. The late Princess Diana surrounded herself with these relaxing candles, as do many supermodels. They burn for hours and emit exotic fragrances.

Janeke. This design company supplies big names such as Giorgio Armani. They make great accessories for the home.

If waxing at the salon is too expensive, you can do it yourself. Essences supplies special resin for P64 a bucket. The strips are 20 percent less in other stores.

Campos says the bulk of sales come from the low-ticket items and the toiletries. This reflects in the Filipinos' penchant for frequent baths.

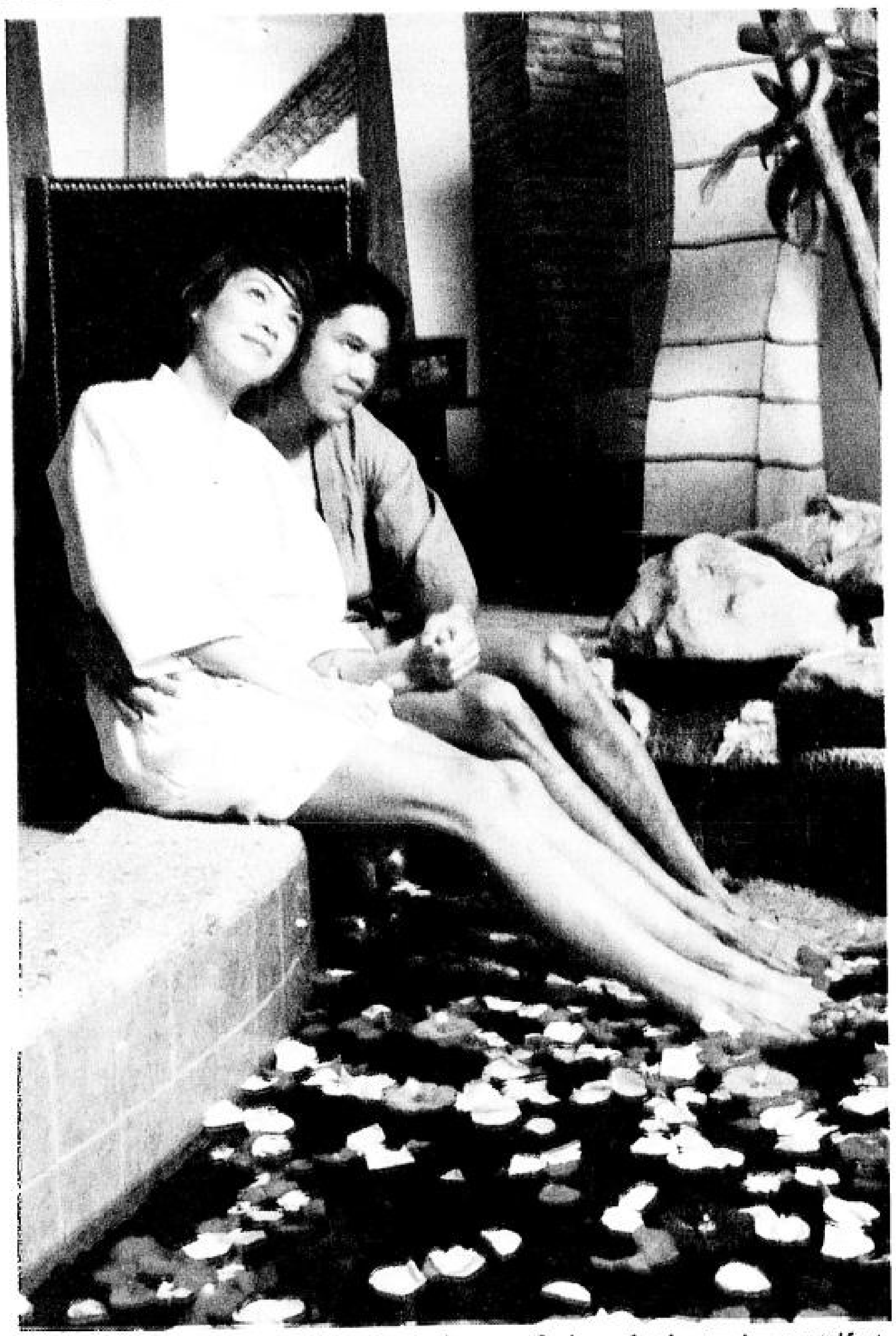


CREATING a harmonious balance between you and your surroundings.

Essences specializes in artist's makeup line. To fashionistas Francois Nars has been the favorite, followed by Laura Mercier. Diego Della Palma is a favorite of makeup artists.

This year Essences plans to expand its vision of going beyond traditional retailing by introducing lectures on wellness and networking with experts on promoting a holistic lifestyle. There's a plan to create a kit for the customer, which serves as a guide to chilling out, the holistic way.

More than just niche marketing, Essences plans to drive home the point, that the customer is more than just a stressed-out body. She's also a soul that needs revitalization.–***Marge C. Enriquez***



PALMIST KISS. Hold hands and feel each other's energy. Soak your feet in a *pandan* or petal foot bath, combined with traditional reflexology, this ritual relaxes the mind and feet.

The healing touch

Photos by Chito Vecina
Visual concept by Albert Avellana

Touch is the therapy of the sensible. A massage can release the body from tension and rejuvenate it at the same time

WHEN we are infants, touch is the most calming of our senses. Held against our mother's body, we are comforted; feeling her hand gently caressing our face, we are pacified. However, as we mature, we tend to literally lose touch, seeking fewer kisses and hugs, even becoming discomfited by physical contact. By insulating ourselves from friends and family, we repress an innate need to express and be loosened up through touch.

There's a relation between touch and stress reduction. When we fondle a pet, we soothe the animal. The gradual rhythm of our caress and the gratification of the pet's pleased reaction, concur to relax us.

This doesn't mean we need to stroke other people to find relaxation. However, think about the sensitive moments in our lives. When was our last embrace? When did a special friend stroke our face or take our hand to comfort us? We often give and take touch from time to time. However, we have forgotten its advantages. We seem to associate touch in a family context or with sex that we tend to underestimate its efficacy as a simple act of forging a link between two souls.

MAKE a date at the spa. Some rooms offer double occupancy for couples to invigorate themselves.

VICHY shower after a body scrub improves circulation.

Try this exercise, the Palmist's Kiss. Imagine that you are filled with positive energy. Sit with your partner or friend and press your palm against his or hers. Think of the warm and rejuvenating energy passing through your palms and coursing through your body. Interlock fingers and squeeze gently in reassurance. Think that the energy has released all stress from your body.

Indeed the power of touch is healing. A massage eases tension and repairs the body and the mind. Shiatsu (meaning finger pressure) is a Japanese massage technique in which static pressure is exerted along the meridians of *qi* to facilitate energy flow. There are three kinds of shiatsu to reduce stress. Connection shiatsu deals with shortness of breath and shallow breathing. One hand is placed on the abdomen and the other on the breastplate. The receiver holds still for a minute. The flow of *qi* between the lungs and the kidneys will be smoother.

Dispersal shiatsu can be used to remove the blockages in the neck by gentle pressure; it can release tension. Finger pressure shiatsu on the center of the right palm and below the ball of each foot will calm the mind and feelings.

This will help the *qi* to the mind, send the energy traveling through the body and leaving you in a peaceful state of relaxation.

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The big thing about skin aging

CAN you age gracefully with wild yam? For centuries, Central Americans used it for its calming properties. After a series of testing, laboratories validated the fact that wild yam stimulates the production of certain epidermal lipids. Wild yam also inhibits the activity of collagenase, an enzyme which degrades collagen, to preserve the quality of the dermis and its structure.

L'Oreal Advanced Research Laboratories has developed an anti-aging cream that combines the properties of yam, soya and sea algae. Soya stimulates the functioning of dermal cells, which produce collagen and elastin. It is capable of strengthening the elasticity and firmness of skin support tissue.

Sea algae stimulates the production of enzymes in order to reinforce the resilience of skin support and consequently restore the skin's fuller appearance.

Absolue cream is a skincare treatment that gives the skin the resources to reconstruct itself by boosting the functions of cells, which slow down with age. Absolue also boosts the skin's vital functions weakened by age on and around the dermis and epidermis and combats the factors affecting skin aging. These are chronological aging, hormonal deficiencies and photo aging.

With this formulation skin is re-nourished, reconstructed and reactivated.

Give lashes a lift-off

MASCARAS of the new millennium defy the laws of eyelash gravity. Instead of the conventional weighty wax, Estee Lauder's Illusionist blends spheres of air gels into a curling polymer matrix. Air gels were developed by the National Aeronautic Space Administration to create materials for weightless insulation of rockets. These air gels are suspended by airy, soufflé-like polymers. There is no need to use a curler. Illusionist mascara is composed of feather-light silica that provides lashes volume without the weight.

Estee Lauder collaborated with DuPont to develop a mascara brush that is bullet shaped. The brush is the triple-hollow elastomers that firmly grip, lift, curl and set lashes for a total eye-opening effect. It is twice as wide and softer than the traditional nylon bristles.

Sensual enhancement

FIRMA, the boutique known for its unique handmade products and strong visual merchandising, explores marketing possiblities through the senses. To seduce the sense of taste, they opened a French-Moroccan restaurant called Fidel. The invitation came with a compact disc, especially mixed for the occasion.

To cater to the olfactory and tactile senses, Gemma Suzara collaborated with perfumers in Grasse, France to develop fragrances and toiletries for Firma. The store's signature scent is a blend of black tea and maté, apple, bergamot, orange with a floral body or rose, jasmine and a blend of fruity and spicy aromatics. It can also be enjoyed in the energizing shampoo and bath gel. Suzara developed an herbal shampoo to complement Fidel's image.

For OCHCs (obsessive-compulsive hand cleaners), the hand cleanser is designed for the social butterfly, who doesn't like to do *beso-beso*.

The height of its tactile merchandising is the lubricant, which complements the herbal and collagen-based bath line. Firma's signature lubricant has a "twist." "This one is edible!" claims the store. It's got cream and honey flavor and is safe to use with condoms. "It goes without saying that this fun product is recommended for all genders," claimthe owners.

For sure, this won't grease your car engine.

FIRMA IS LOCATED AT 616 J. NAKPIL ST. MALATE, MANILA. TEL. 525-5001.

Skin appetizer

LA PRAIRIE'S Caviar Collection boasts of concentrated caviar extracts, which gives the skin instant firmness and freshness. The miniature spoon that comes with Skin Caviar enables the woman to apply just the right amount of these precious pearls that release their energy at the moment of her application. The result is instantaneous.

The Skin Caviar Firming Complex starts with the Skin Caviar Luxe Body Cream, which firms up the skin and protects it against the damage of free radicals, in turn, giving her a radiant glow.

The Skin Caviar Firming Mask is another breakthrough in beauty regimen. It relieves signs of stress and fatigue. It also diminishes those aging lines while at the same time moisturizing and smoothing the skin.

The Skin Caviar Eye Complex gives importance to the sexiest and most seductive parts of a woman. The Skin Caviar Eye Mask provides last-minute treatment for the sensitive area around the eyes. The Revitalizing Eye Pads, firms the skin in just five minutes. Skin Caviar Luminiscent energizes the tender under-eye tissue.

Sergio spotlights the ankle

Photos by Patrick Uy

IF THE price of Manolo Blahnik or Jimmy Choo is a little too steep, fashionistas are getting shod in Sergio Rossi. However, it's not the cost that attracts fashionistas. It's the come up with provocative designs to give a whole new meaning to sandals.

Instead of gems, a strappy stiletto is crowned by an anklet made of wood and bone rings. Rossi's signature metal-spike heel gets topped not by shiny metallic discs, but circles of bone-white wood out against the shoe's slender mahogany straps.

The collection's combination of natural materials—wood, leather and canvas—also lends a rich hippie glamour to spring's strong new silhouette, the platform heel. Carved with inch-thick wooden soles and towering stack heels, this is a modern take on the platform. It gives off a hint of sexy, 70s style.

For the day, the palest primrose stack-heeled sandal has two wide, soft ribbons that wrap around the ankle for a romantic effect. For the evening, the look is slightly more dangerous, with a skinny wooden heel and skinny gold strips of lame leather.

Aside from stack heels and platforms, Sergio Rossi introduces an ultra-flat silhouette for day. With the heel shaved down to little more than a sliver, and the sides cut down with low, gently curving lines, this new silhouette is modern, urban and graceful at once.

For his recent collection, dark hues are done away with. Emphasis is given to earth and sky shades like white, tan, orange, mahogany and baby blue. Flat sandals and thongs are adorned with unusual wood, shell and metallic accents like polished gold buckles on a tangerine cross-strap flat and tiny tortoiseshell tiles on a mahogany leather thing. It's nature beauty, crafted and refined to the highest standards of luxury.

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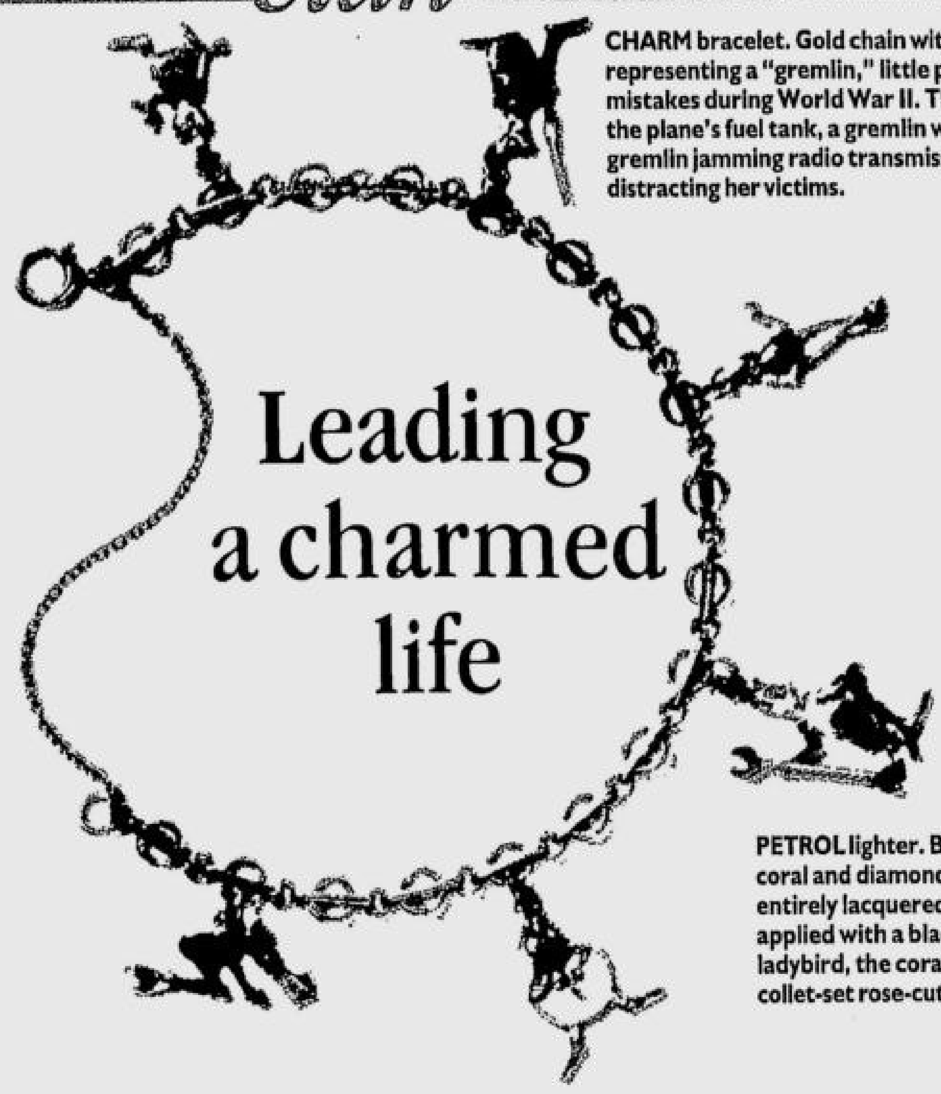
The art of performance | JAGUAR

Leading a charmed life



CHARM bracelet. Gold chain with six charms in enamelled silver-gilt, each representing a "gremlin," little people whom Royal Air Force pilots blamed for their mistakes during World War II. They include: a gremlin who has drunk the contents of the plane's fuel tank, a gremlin wielding a monkey wrench and a screwdriver, a gremlin jamming radio transmissions, a lady gremlin by the name of Filfinella distracting her victims.

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

FOR almost a century, they have been the purveyors to the international cult of luxury.

Jean Cocteau once described Cartier as "that delicate magician, who captures pieces of moon on threads of sun." Theirs has been an association of alchemy and artistry. With diamonds, they turn rock into riddles of light. With gold, they turn puddles of liquid metal into panthers in flight.

One of their most celebrated objects, the *Pendules Mysterieuse*, was called "unreal and seemingly woven from moonbeams, they veil the mystery of time in the shadow of an ancient divinity of Jade, between two pillars of rose quartz, enameled with black dragons." As conjurors of these clocks, Cartier produced marvels, which gave the impression of suspended hands trapped inside the face of unbroken crystal. These pre-war pieces, mounted on an optical illusion, exemplified their hallmark of bridging mystery and style.

Each design is drawn from the world's different histories, both real and imagined. Every opulent material holds its own sacred myths. Their artisans have fashioned Chimeras from Jade, a semi-precious stone that embodies infinity and richness. From their Atelier, come carved dragons, which snake across coral vases. Coral, symbolic of the realm of water, is often linked with longevity. From as early as 1924, Cartier made vanity cases in carved Mother of Pearl, a material whose translucent iridescence is, in Taoist lore, both the food of the immortals and a token for eternity.

In this twin tradition of crafting magic and creating jewelry, Cartier now creates miniature metaphors for luck, a range of personal talismans. From superstition into substance into style, comes a collection of magic and luxury designed. These items have double destinies—a tale between the jeweler and the bearer.

The chronicles begin with the materials; such as the diamond, that of light and of life, of love's promise, of the purity of friendship and of loyalty. The diamond winks at us, a puzzle in the afternoon, and the answer as well.

Cartier then breathes a charmed life into motifs, symbols, icons; a contemporary anthology of luck. They set the stage for a play on chance, presented in five acts, starring the dove, the four-leafed clover, the game of heads or tails, the number eight and the dragon.

The dove, set to flight on stylized wings of white gold and brilliant-cut diamonds, is a universal symbol of peace. Its fluid lines catch on a breeze of a lapel, or circle round a wrist, fall into the chain of a necklace or nestle in the curve of the face.

The Shamrock, the symbol of luck for the Irish, is even more rare when it form is found with four leaves. In Cartier's hands, this is offered blooming with diamonds in pave setting, with leaves cleaved into hearts. As pendants, on rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets. The lush clover promises good fortune to its wearer.

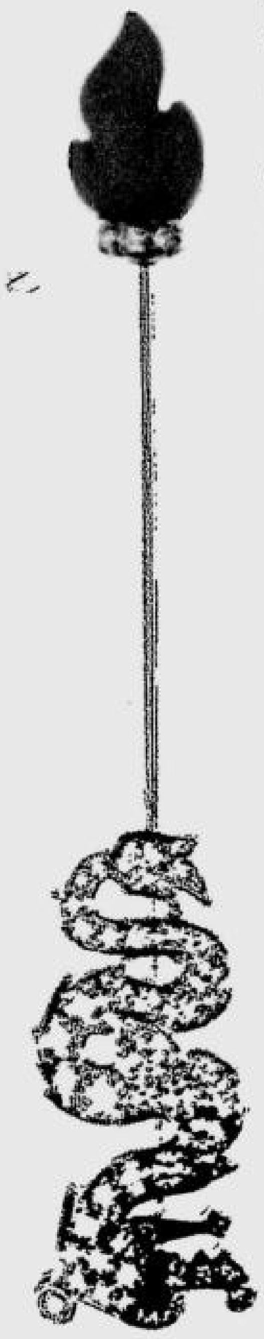
The game of destiny is presented in the chicest links. A game of heads or tails is played upon a bracelet. It is the wheel of fortune and the wheel of life. Disks of diamond and white gold hold court, flipping from up to down. Heads, diamonds flash their face upon the wearer. Tails, they disappear. In rings around one's wrist, a sophisticated sport is in fashion, where fate is constantly shuffled.

Considered auspicious, endless in its curve, the number eight is symbolic of fluid infinity. Time, in Cartiers hands, is not linear, but cyclical. It weaves upon itself, in a loop of white gold and pave set diamonds. Its rhythm flows into a cuff bracelet meeting in a diamond studded clasp forming the Cartier double C, where it begins and ends.

Born from mythology, Dragons, the personal emblem of the emperor, are revered as a protective force. They first appeared on Cartier designs during the 1930s, and now herald the dawn of the third millennium. This version springs from a coral fire, its body encrusted with diamonds. With an emerald twinkling in its eye, it bestows faith and hope. "*Yang*" which it signifies, is creation; twining round a lapel pin, a pair of cufflinks or circling a bracelet.

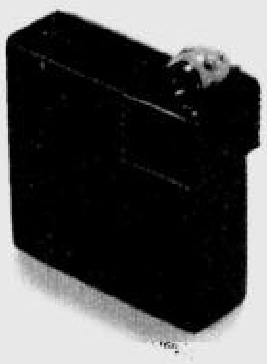
Blending the enigmatic with the curious, these are pieces to behold. But the Cartier tale is unfinished. The wearer completes the circle, and indeed, gives their intimate magic to the talismans. One's own stories settle in these stones. This is the true alchemy that turns trinkets into keepsakes and mementos from a charmed life.

(Cartier is having an exhibit of vintage lucky charms at Rustan's Makati. Exhibit ends tomorrow.)



DRAGON design tie-pin. Unique dragon design in white gold and brilliant-cut diamonds for this tie-pin adorned with an emerald eye and a coral flame.

CHARM. Gold and enamel. Gold "playing card" with rounded corners, depicting the Queen of Hearts in multi-colored enamel.



PETROL lighter. Black lacquered silver, coral and diamonds. Of square shape, entirely lacquered in black, the hammer applied with a black lacquered and coral ladybird, the coral encrusted with four collet-set rose-cut diamonds.

CHARM holder. Rectangular panel. Three edges engraved with lozenge motifs. Retractable suspension hoop. Main part in reeded gold dotted with lozenge motifs. The upper section has been cut away and fitted with two glass panels to protect a pressed four-leaf clover. Underneath, a secret opening contains a note: four-leaf clover found on Aug. 8, 1930.

Indulgence with a conscience

Photos By Patrick Uy

LUXURY brands such as Bvlgari hold an exhibit that is not just driven by profit. There's social conscience that goes into such special events.

This weekend, Bvlgari presents a showcase featuring the Lucea collection, BB Chrono and Diagono watches at the Mactan Ballroom of Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.

Bvlgari's exhibit sale is part of a fund-raising event.

There will be a gala dinner tonight featuring Tessie Tomas and Jon Santos. Providing the wines and cocktail drink for the occasion is Ralph's Wines and Spirits.

Cebu's prime movers Margot Osmeña, Chary Aboitiz and Eva Gullas and the Cabs Force on Street Children (CCTFSC). It aims to step up the establishment of a detention center for minors dubbed Operation Second Chance All proceeds of ticket sales will go to the Operation Second Chance Foundation which aims to separate minor offenders from adult hardened criminals presently languishing in one congested facility. The new center, the first of its kind in the country, was estimated to cost P16 million. With the help from some members of the Cebuano community, like Rep. Augustus "Joy" Young, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and Rep. Raul del Mar, the project is 98 percent completed. Others who believed in the cause are Sen. Ramon Magsaysay and Education Secretary Raul Roco.

"Instead of merely exhibiting watches and jewelry, there is a beneficiary of the event. This is not purely a commercial endeavor," says Mario Katigbak, Bvlgari's spokesperson.

The showcase features the trendy Lucea collection, made of gold and precious stones; the classic BB Chrono and the sporty Diagono watches.

"It's *buenas* for us to help a foundation. It's a nice combination of commercial and civic work. Our clients are not just buying jewelry, but they are helping a worthy cause," says Katigbak.

MODEL: **TONI LOPEZ-GONZALEZ**

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **ROCKY GIMENEZ** FOR COCOY SALON, GREENHILLS

MAKEUP: CHANEL'S MATTE REFLECTING FOUNDATION, SHADOWLIGHTS IN SIESTA, LUMIERES POLYCHROME FOR CHEEKS, HYDRABASE CREME LIPSTICK IN SALSA

SOPHISTICATED femininity. White gold contrasts the flashiness of diamonds.

ICON of modern fashion. The bib necklace in yellow gold is the star of the bolder Lucea line. Small discs and cascading ovals are accented with garnet.

Rare, rich and eligible

(From page2)

fool anyone. Behind that playful mien and wacky sense of humor lurks an intellectually engaging mind. He has reportedly considered getting into philanthropy and in our book—for someone so young to even think about that thing, that is class defined.

Paolo Abaya, who, just like his other cousins on the **Yuchengco** side, just works, works, works, and occasionally plays—but—hewing close to their trademark—does both quietly and without much fanfare. **Abaya** went to school in San Francisco and after a stint in Tokyo whilst his grandfather, the venerable banker **Alfonso Yuchengco Sr.** was Philippine envoy to Japan, came to Manila to become a restaurateur—the Japanese restaurant and bar, Ebisu, in Makati City and manager of family-owned Isuzu Philippines Inc.

Equally eligible **Gil Coscolluela**, son of architect **Willy**, is responsible for Ebisu's sleek interiors. The young architect's brand of design, which is of the spare, elegant minimalism kind, can be found likewise in good measure in his own establishment, the clubby wine bar, Shiraz, located on the ground floor of the family-owned high-rise Palisades, where mom **Marion**'s own work on some of the residential units glows.

Any of our eligible girls would be elated to have **Yon Bilbao** for a suitor.

The young, tall, hunky and amiable **Bilbao,** who is blessed with mestizo good looks and a whopping low golf handicap, comes from good old solid Visayan stock (his mom, **Tessie Locsin** from Iloilo is the sister of former Ormoc Representative **Carmelo Locsin**). He sports a perpetual tan and that's what he gets for being "lord" and overseer of the fabulously laid-out Fairways & Bluewater Golf Resort in Boracay. If you think all this lucky guy does is swim in the glimmering blue green waters of Boracay and play golf, you're wrong. **Yon**, at 25, is also the president of the local civic club, Rotary, and is active in doing socio-civic work, in between hitting the course in Fairways & Bluewater's unbelievably spectacular golf course.

There are other names where the bachelors are concerned in our short list, but we'll save that for later.

Female finds

Our choices for the ladies include a smattering of Visayan eligibles topped by this year's best new find, 18-year-old **Alexis Alunan Abello,** who comes from a long line of Visayan beauties. In **Alexis'** veins runs the same blood as the brilliant **Rafael M. Salas,** who distinguished himself at the United Nations when he put together the UN Food and Population Agency (UNFPA). Her maternal great-grandmother, the late **Isabel Montinola,** was known for her patrician good looks and indomitable style of living, both of which were passed on to **Alexis'** grandmother, the late US-residing **Lyn Salas Abello. Alexis'** mom, Visayan heiress **Ann Alunan,** who comes from an old landed Negrense family, has looks for which **Ann**'s dad, very low-profile gentleman-farmer and businessman, **Phil S. Abello,** gave up the United States for. All the women in her family are all good-looking but **Alexis**, in our book, is something else; she looks exactly like her pictures here and, indeed, she's a beauty to behold.

YON Bilbao

GENI Psinakis

No list of this sort can be without **Margarita Locsin**, daughter of **Makati City Rep. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr**. and his former wife, **Vivian Yuchengco. Margarita** went to Manila's International School, lived and worked in London after graduating at the Ateneo, was country representative of Euromoney, is an equestrienne, writer, events organizer and currently does PR for the local branch of Mexico's premier cement company, CEMEX. Well-bred, well-connected and well-liked, **Margarita** has tons of friends and is our only bet to replace his dad in office when he finishes his term and goes to the Senate. In which case, since we can't put politicians in the list, **Margarita**'s slot will have to be given up for **Bianca**, her sister who's now in Yale tackling Law, after going through Smith College, Nanjing, China where she soaked up in Chinese economics, and Taipei, where she absorbed Chinese philosophy and in the process, learned how to speak, read and write in Mandarin Chinese like a native.

Coincidentally there are two **Lopez** girls with similar names in the list: **Celine Relucio Lopez,** daughter of former **Congressman Albertito Lopez** and **Congresswoman Emily Relucio Lopez,** and **Celine Heras Lopez,** daughter of **Dionisio Lopez** who comes from an old rich Visayan family, and the ageless classic beauty, **Sylvia Lacson Heras**. We would've loved to put **Celine H. Lopez**'s sister—the equally beauteous **Ines** on the list except that she got married to old-time beau, **Jerome Matti,** of the very genteel, quiet and clannish **Mattis** of Manila and Negros Occidental in December last year.

We round off the list with two equally very good-looking female eligibles—Aqua chef **Mara de la Rama**, and **Geni Psinakis**, daughter of **Steve** and **Precy Lopez Psinakis. Geni** runs the family-owned Mati at Rockwell Centre's chichi Power Plant, likewise owned by **Geni**'s family (by virtue of her mom, **Precy Lopez**).

One wonders, why so many Visayans on the list? What is it about these

Visayans, anyway? Blame it on all that sugar, honey (or on all that intermarrying?)I

Taipan twins turn 70

By Bambina Buenaventura
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina

BUSINESS leaders **Joe** and **Ronnie Concepcion** celebrated their 70th birthday with pomp. Their families feted the twins with a party at the Shangri-La Makati Ballroom that was meant to be a surprise. However, the surprise soon fizzled out owing to the size of the guest list and the fact that no one can really keep a secret in Manila.

Joe, older by a few seconds, finished agriculture, and established the RFM food conglomerate. He is better known for his Namfrel activities and as Secretary of Trade and Industry during **Cory Aquino's** administration. Ronnie, on the other hand, built Concepcion Industries into a world-class business enterprise and has taken on the tasks of Consumer Price Watchdog and the Buy Filipino Movement.

Sons-in-law **Raul Roa**, from the **Joecon** side, and **Jimmyton Araneta**, from the Ronnie side, delighted the audience with their hosting. They brought entertainer **Willy Nepomuceno**, who did a convincing **Erap** impersonation especially when he claimed that the twins were actually triplets—with **Cardinal Sin** being the third brother. A "Game KNB" portion followed where the wives were asked questions such as "How many girlfriends did your husband have before he married you?" Who would have thought that **Joe** had as many as 40 girlfriends when he was a bachelor? Joe's eight children, their spouses plus their 20 grandchildren and **Ronnie**'s five children plus in-laws and 14 grandchildren filled the stage as they sang "Happy Birthday."

The twins are what they are today because of the women they married. **Marivic Araneta's** birthday wish for Joe was for better health. **Menchu de las Alas** hopes that **Ronnie** would slow down and to turn over the business to the next generation.

Guests went home with red candles inscribed with the motto "Keep the twin candles burning." May the future continue to burn brightly for the **Concepcion** twins, so alike and yet so different.

CITO Lorenzo

FRED Borromeo and Cesar Bautista

MELDY Cojuangco, Mon. Patricio Lim, Zita Feliciano

GUS Lagman and Jing Jayme

ERNEST and Josie Rufino

KITKAT Zobel, Bernie Concepcion and Lizzie Zobel

CHING Montinola, Steve and Precy Psinakis

JOEY Concepcion

FORMER PMS Secretary Vicky Garchitorena and Senator Aquilino Pimentel

DICK Romulo, Johnny Santos and Ronnie C.

MRS. Tessie Pimentel and Willie Villarama, Jr., Joe and Senator Aquilino Pimentel

VICKY and Joe Zubiri, Carolyn Masibay

MEXICAN Ambassador and Mrs. Enrique Hubbard and Joe Concepcion

PLACIDO Mapa, Senate President Frank Drilon and wife Mila, Menchu Concepcion.

BILL Luz

DON Jaime Zobel, Ronnie C. and Marilen Espiritu

Glamorous midlifers compete in dancesport

By Becky Garcia
Contributor

AS BALLROOM clubs close, new ones open. In fact, two big hotels will be opening their ballroom nights soon—every Monday at Conways of the Makati Shangri-La and every Wednesday at Gillespie's of Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel.

Dancesport will never die. People are getting more and more into it as if taking on a new sport. Glamorous ballroom dancing enthusiasts have gone into competition—making use of the techniques and the syllabi they have learned from the various foreign coaches have been training all our dancesport athletes. The midlifers are joining the senior category. Even the so-called social dancing crowd has taken it seriously by studying the international style because everybody is dancing the global way in ballroom clubs. There is a pro-amateur category for this group.

Here, we have asked several of competitors if they think that ballroom dancing will last:

Atty. Cecilia "Chel" Katigbak, lawyer. "When my friends took up ballroom dancing, they were not only looking healthy and gorgeous but were also having a great time.

"Ballroom has been, for the most part, a very pleasant experience for me. It afforded me to lose weight in the most enjoyable way, expanded my horizons beyond lawyering and accounting, cultivated my interest in the artistic aspect of dancing, multiplied my friendships with the most wonderful people and continuously fills me with a genuine sense of well-being.

"As in any undertaking, there is this inherent desire in man to expand his capabilities. If ballroom dancing is so good, why not go to the next level which is dancesport?

"Not everyone might have the inclination nor the physical stamina for dancesport. Thus, for those who enjoy dancing without the pressure of competitive sports, ballroom dancing is a likely alternative.

"But for those who are technically adept, physically agile and motivated by competition, there is the avenue to being a dance athlete in dancesport for national and international dance competitions.

"In three years, the Dancesport Council of the Philippines has been painstakingly harnessing talents of Filipino dance athletes for world-class dancesport competitions and its continuing efforts have, so far, been yielding champions in several international competitions.

"We can continue to enjoy our regular ballroom dancing and for those of us seeking new challenges in dancing, we could aspire to be a dance athlete.

"Whether ballroom dancing or dancesport, both are here to stay because each activity satisfies different needs of different dancers."

From a top bank executive who remains anonymous:

"Ballroom clubs are a good venue for socializing and meeting with different classes of society. Ballroom dancing, being a form of physical exercise, de-stresses me and serves as my most effective therapy after a hard day's work.

"With a supportive family of two grown-up kids and a very encouraging husband, it was easy for my ballroom friends to prod me into competing. Competitive dancing served as a sort of 'graduation rite' for me after three years of social dancing. With valuable lessons from some of the best foreign and local coaches such as **Bong Marquez** and **Edna Ledesma**, I was able to hone my dancing techniques to the dancesport level, knowing that it is in Dancesport where my dance partner **John Mahinay** and I can showcase our skill in dancing."

Lorna Naval, entrepreneur: " I was able to acquire new friends through ballroom dancing. Next, dancing is encourages weight control and helps the body's circulatory system. In short, ballroom dancing is one activity that keeps me well-rounded physically, emotionally and socially.

"Last year, I joined the Pro-Am and Senior Latin Division and luckily I won second and third place respectively. I am contented in having medals and trophies as proof of what I am now in ballroom dancing."

Joey Yulo, businessman:

"Ballroom dancing presents us with an opportunity to express ourselves especially so in dancesport where strength and aesthetics are given equal importance.

"Dancesport in the Philippines, although it has progressed in leaps and bounds over the past years or so, remains in a stage of infancy. Enthusiasm is plentiful but as with other sports in this country, development is hampered by lack of qualified instructions, adequate training and perhaps most of all by organized funding.

"I decided to compete because I wanted to put into practice what I have acquired and continue to acquire through workshops with foreign competitors and coaches."

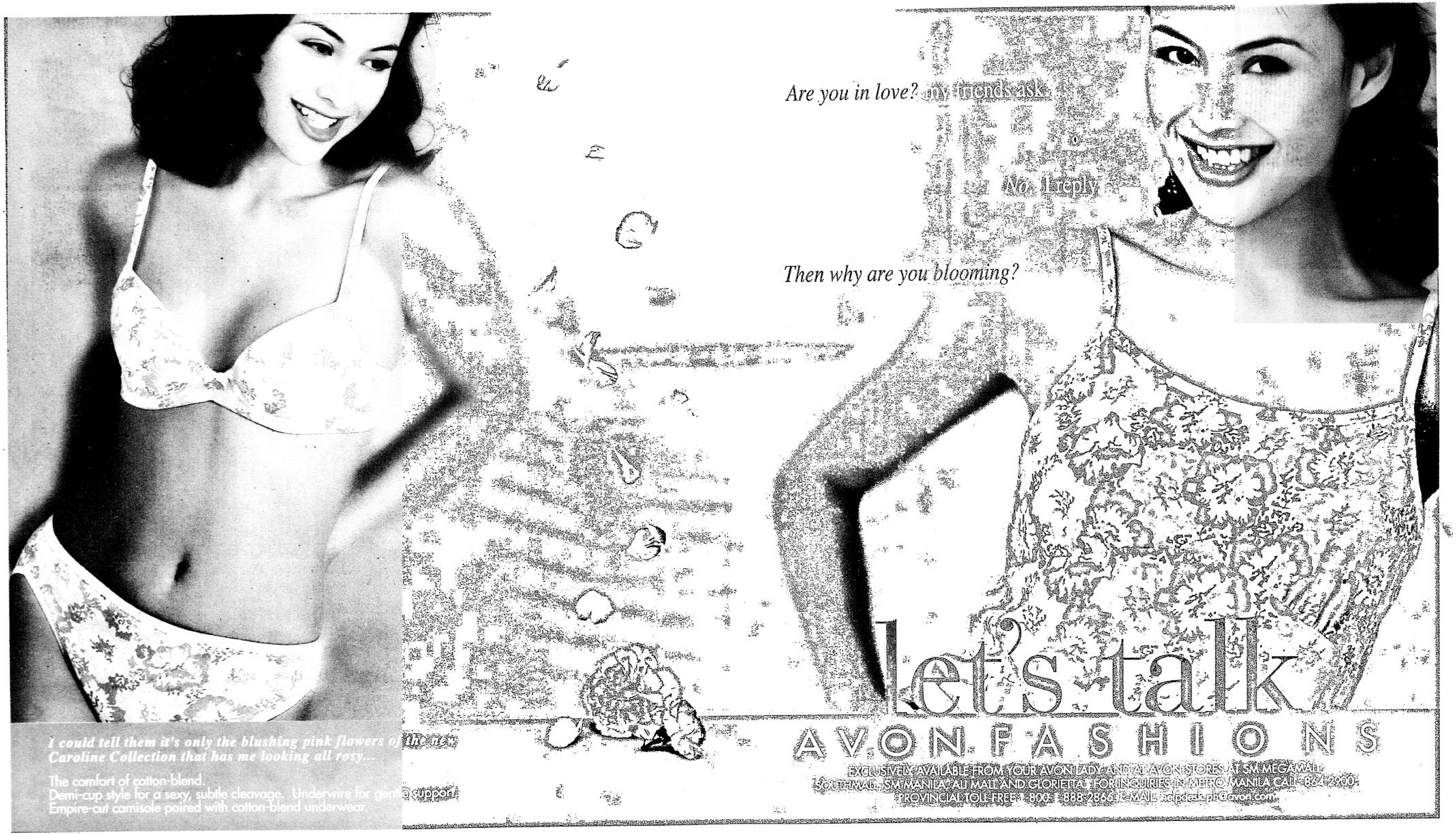
Other ballroom enthusiasts who have joined competitions such as working socialite **Linda Floirendo, Rose Jacob**—mother of swimmer **Christine Jacob—Marisse Cojuangco McMurray, Becca Jose**, businesswoman champion bowler **Baby Cruz**, businessman **Benny Lao** and a lot others share the same views.

How can it not prosper? The city of Manila under **Mayor Lito Atienza** has organized Manila Sports Council under the chairmanship of his son, **Ali Atienza**. The younger Atienza has opened a dance studio to train the juvenile and junior dance athletes, and has even taken the national junior and juvenile dance champion under their wings to further develop their skills. In fact, **Ali** is organizing the first Manila Youth Games on April 2002. Meanwhile at the Dance Training Center in Ultra, the number of dancesport athletes training there are increasing each day. The center is full everyday from Monday to Saturday. This is surely a sign of the good times to come.

JUN Borja and Lorna Naval

ATTY. Cecilia Katigbak and dance teacher Ariel Llanillo

ROSE Jacob and partner



Are you in love? my friends ask.

No, I reply.

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Unchecked by sturdy,
binding goals.
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My soul forever free.

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(Story on D2)

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LOVE HOROSCOPE	LH <zodiac sign>	LH ARIES
FORTUNE RELATIONSHIP	FORTUNE REL <out come of 6 coin tosses> H=Heads, T=Tails	FORTUNE REL HTHTHT
CHINESE HOROSCOPE FOR LOVE	<zodiac animal> L	HORSE L

VALENTINE'S TONES

Waiting For Tonight	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE WAITING4**
Might Be You	*Stephen Bishop*	**TONE MYTBU**
Kiss Me	*Six Pence None The Richer*	**TONE KISSME**
I Don't Want To Miss A Thing	*Aerosmith*	**TONE MISATING**
Pagdating Ng Panahon	*Aiza Seguerra*	**TONE PAGDATING**
Crush ng Bayan	*Chris Villanco*	**TONE CRUSHNG**
Mr. Love	*South Border*	**TONE MRLOVE**
Di Ba't Ikaw	*Jessa Zaragoza*	**TONE DIBATIKAW**
Mr. Kupido	*Rachel Alejandro*	**TONE MRKUPIDO**
Be My Lady	*Martin Nievera*	**TONE BMYLADY**

Type in keyword and send to 288

Valentine's Logos:

Valentine's Picture Messages:

MFEO
LOGO PANDAKISS
LOGO MFEO
LOGO LOVETUNNEL
I love you!
LOGO ILOVEYOU1
LOGO HOLDINGHANDS
LOGO HEARTS2
LOGO HEARTBEAT1
LOGO GROWINGHEART
LOGO FLYINGHEART
LOGO CATLOVE
LOVE YOU
PIC EC-603
Love
PIC EC-604
Flower 4 you
PIC EC-605
Miss you babes
PIC EC-606
Hapi Day
PIC EC-607
MISS YOU
PIC EC-608
LOVE
PIC EC-609
There is NO ONE like YOU!!!
PIC EC-616
I love to love
PIC EC-617
LOVE
PIC EC-618

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. Logos, ring tones and picture messages work only on selected Nokia cell phones and are P 16.00 per successful download. Other services are P 2.50 per download. For a list of keywords, type in KEYS and send to 288.

Everything gets kicking in the Year of the Horse

By Pia Lim-Castillo
Contributor

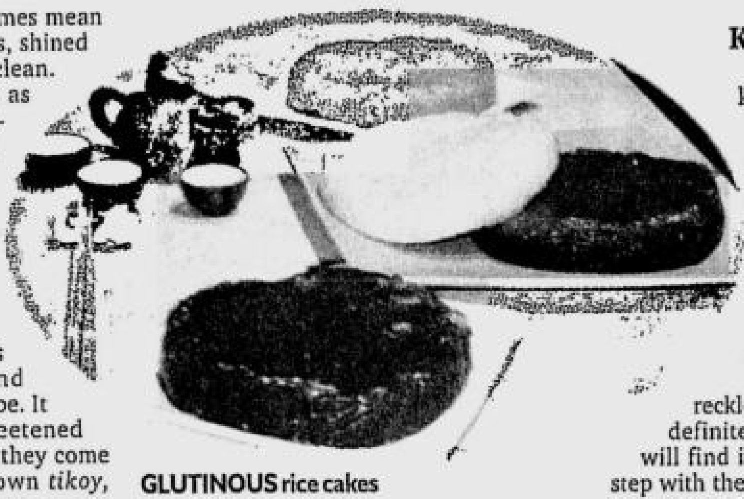
CHINESE New Year is a movable feast, which follows the cycle of the new moon. The date can shift from the end of January to sometime mid-February. This Monday, Feb. 12, we usher in the year of the Water Horse. To billions of Chinese all over the world, this holiday is a new beginning.

In the Philippines, Binondo stores are closed, but the district is busy with activities. There will be performances of dragon dances, lion dances, fireworks, acrobatic shows and many more. Definitely, Chinatown will be the place for the action. The dragon figure is usually carried by no less than 10 people moving in rhythm to the sound of drums. This is why the men carrying the dragon have to be coordinated to make sure their dragon or lion mimics the actual movement of the animals.

Gastronomic delights

Preparation in everyone's homes mean polished furniture, waxed floors, shined pots and pans and everything clean. Pyramids of round fruits such as pomelos and tangerines are balanced on the dining table and red *lee see* envelopes with money are tucked under these fruits or put as an offering to the kitchen god.

This is also the time when people give away gifts of *tikoy* or sweet rice cakes to one another. Traditionally this was made of sticky rice and molded to a round cake tin shape. It was white because it was sweetened with brown sugar. Nowadays, they come in all colors. There is the brown *tikoy*, which is colored by using brown sugar. Then there is the purple one that takes its flavor and color from *ube* or purple yam. This was popularized by Eng Bee Tin Grocery on Ongpin street in Binondo, the home of the ube hopia.

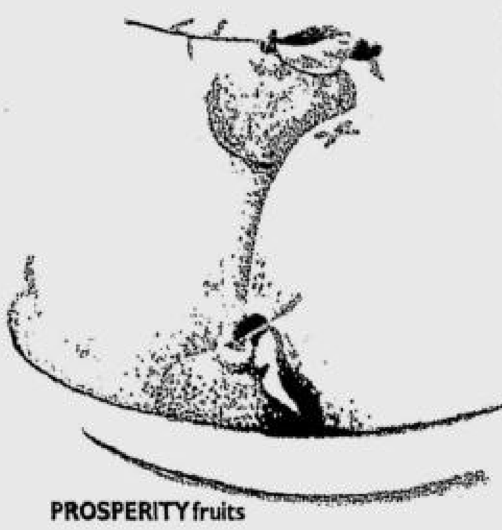


GLUTINOUS rice cakes

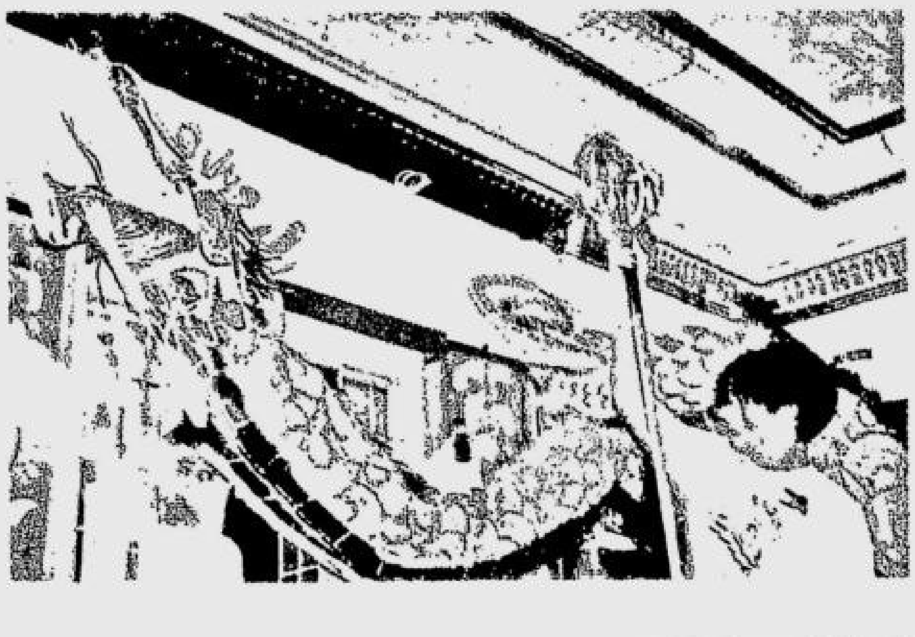
The newest *hopia* is green because it is *pandan* (screwpine) flavored. It is quite attractive to see pieces of each color being served on a plate. Here you will see the modifications on a traditional Chinese giveaway for New Year.

All day, the Chinese dine on foods chosen because their names sound like words associated with good fortune and wealth or because they resemble money. Oysters, *hoh see*, sound like luck; fish, *ngee*, sounds like the word for abundance; lily buds, gum jem, or "golden needles" symbolize gold.

Lettuce, *song choy*, sounds like growing luck and looks like green paper money. Tossed with oyster sauce, it is double lucky. Long grain rice symbolizes a long life and sweet dishes predict a sweet life. Some dishes are presented at the table whole to symbolize the wholeness and fullness of life.



PROSPERITY fruits



Know your fortune

The Chinese also want to know what's in store for them in the year of the Horse, the seventh of the animal signs according to the Chinese zodiac.

Geomancer Theodora Lau says this will be a lively and high-spirited year for all. Life will be hectic and punctuated with adventures.

People will find themselves reckless, romantic and carefree. A definite time for advancement! We will find it quite agreeable to keep in step with the delightful horse.

Projects will be incorporated at high speed and with efficiency. Action will be the key word. Everything is on the go and we should take care not to drive ourselves too hard. It will be a rewarding but exhausting year.

Exhilarating yet frustrating at times, this year's pace will tax our reserve energies and leave us feeling depleted. It is a good time for letting off steam and doing all the whimsical things you ever dreamed about. Listen to your intuition. The wind may be changing constantly but once you have picked up the scent, follow your intuitions.

Planning and procrastinating will be shoved aside. The impulsive influence of the Horse, coupled with his self-confidence, will dictate our actions and emotions. Industry, production and the world's economy will be on an upswing.

Brace yourselves, the volatile Horse will quicken your pulses and bring more stress into your everyday life. The Horse's tempo is fast, his disposition sanguine but erratic. But in spite of everything, he will retain his common sense approach towards money matters. This is excellent time to strike on your own. There will be freedom of movement this year. Be brave, bold and shocking.

Famous Horses

Want to know some famous people born in the year of the horse:

Metal – Neil Armstrong and Lord Snowdon

Water – F. D. Roosevelt, Barbra Streisand, Paul McCartney and Raquel Welsh

Fire – Rembrandt van Rijn, Leonid Brezhnev, Roberto Rosselini

Wood – Duke of Windsor, Nikita Krushchev and Chris Evert

Earth – Theodore Roosevelt, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, Helmut Schmidt, Leonard Bernstein and Anwar Sadat

And for those of us, who are not Chinese, it can be a procrastinator's delight. In case some of our New Year's resolutions have been broken already, this could be another fresh start!

Kung Hei Fat Choy and gallop away!

Savory chicken and rice in a lotus leaf

FOODS wrapped in dried lotus leaves become infused with an exotic earthy flavor. If lotus leaves are not available, you can wrap the rice filling in oiled parchment. Besides being an unusual appetizer, this dish can be served as a snack, for lunch, or as a light meal. Note that the first step must be done the night before. Because lotus leaves vary so much in size, eight packets may require anywhere from four to ten leaves. (Larger leaves can be split in half, smaller leaves may need to be overlapped.)

If you are adventurous, you can walk down Carvajal Street in Chinatown. Some vendors there will likely have lotus leaves for sale.

Ingredients
8 large dried lotus leaves
1 cup long-grain rice
3/4 cup sweet glutinous rice or *malagkit*
2 cups chicken stock
3 Chinese sausages (*lop cheong* or *longanisang* Macao), cut diagonally into 1-inch slices
8 Chinese dried black mushrooms, soaked in warm water until soft and pliable
2 tablespoons small dried shrimp, soaked in warm water for 30 minutes
1 whole chicken breast, boned and skinned
2 tablespoons soy sauce, plus more for dipping
1 teaspoon sugar
1/4 5 teaspoon white pepper
1 teaspoon sesame oil

Chicken Marinade
1/2 teaspoon grated ginger
2 teaspoons soy sauce
2 teaspoons dry vermouth or *Shao Hsing* wine
1/2 tsp. teaspoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon white pepper
1 teaspoon sesame oil

On the night before, pour boiling water over the lotus leaves and let them soak for one hour. Rinse and squeeze them dry. Mix the long-grain and glutinous rice together in a large bowl. Wash the rice under running cold water; gently stir and rub the grains between your fingers to loosen all the excess starch. Continue until the water runs clear. Drain thoroughly. Mix the rice with the chicken stock in a two-quart saucepan; soak overnight in the refrigerator.

The next day, set the saucepan of rice uncovered over high heat; bring to a boil. Stir just enough to loosen the rice grains. Reduce the heat to medium-high and boil until the liquid is absorbed, about 8 to 10 minutes. Put the sausages on top of the rice and cover the pan. Reduce the heat to low and cook for 20 minutes. Turn off the heat but do not remove the cover. Let the rice stand for 10 minutes, then, with a wet wooden spoon, transfer it to a large bowl; set aside.

Squeeze the mushrooms dry. Cut off the stems at the base and discard them; cut the caps in half. Combine the marinade ingredients in a medium bowl. Cut the chicken breast into 3/4-inch chunks and toss it with the marinade. Add the mushrooms and marinate for 20 minutes. Drain and coarsely chop the shrimp.

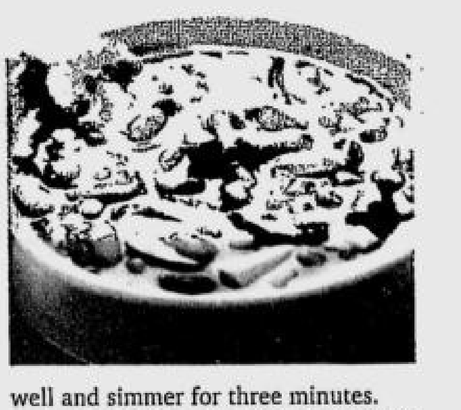
In a small bowl combine the soy sauce, sugar, white pepper, and sesame oil; mix into the cooked rice. Add the chicken-mushroom mixture and the shrimp.

Fold a lotus leaf in half and put it on a cutting board. If the middle stem or edges are tough and hard, trim and discard them. (If the leaves are small, you may need to overlap halves.) Divide the rice mixture into eight portions; place one portion in the center of a leaf half. Fold the edges over the rice to make a four-inch square packet. Tie it with twine. Repeat with the remaining leaves and rice. Arrange the packets in a single layer in a bamboo steaming basket.

Prepare a wok for steaming. Steam the packets over medium-high heat for 20 minutes. Remove them from the steamer and cut each packet across the top to expose its contents. Serve with small dishes of soy sauce for dipping.

Makes 8 packets.

Eight treasure soup



"EIGHT treasure" refers to the eight special ingredients used in this soup. In China, the number eight is regarded as providing complete balance and harmony, and eight treasure dishes are made on special occasions, especially at New Year. The dish will look particularly attractive if you leave the tails on a few of the prawns for decoration.

Ingredients:
1.2 liters/2 pints chicken stock or water
50 g/2 oz frozen peas
50 g/2 oz frozen sweet corn kernels
1 small boneless, skinless chicken breast, weighing about 100 g, cut into very thin strips
75 g/3 oz fresh *shitake* mushrooms, very thinly sliced with stalks removed
3 tablespoons soy sauce, or more to taste
2 tablespoons rice wine or dry sherry
1 tablespoon cornstarch
50 g cooked peeled prawns
50 g cooked ham, thinly sliced
150 g firm bean curd (tofu), drained and thinly sliced
50 g fresh baby spinach leaves, trimmed, washed and very finely shredded
Salt and pepper

Bring the stock or water to boil in a large saucepan. Add the frozen peas and sweet corn and simmer for three minutes. Add the chicken, mushrooms, soy sauce and rice wine or sherry. Stir well and simmer for three minutes.

Blend the corn starch to a paste with a little cold water, then pour it into the soup and stir to mix. Simmer, stirring, for one to two minutes until the soup thickens.

Turn the heat down to low and add the prawns, ham, bean curd and spinach. Simmer for about two minutes until the spinach is just wilted, stirring once or twice. Take care to stir gently so that the bean curd does not break up. Taste and add salt and pepper, plus more soy sauce if you like. Serve piping hot.

Cook's notes. The eight main ingredients can be changed according to personal taste. Pork fillet, crabmeat, dried mushrooms, tomatoes, eggs and spring onions are among the other ingredients that are often used.

Serves 4 to 6
Preparation time: 15-20 minutes
Cooking time: 15 minutes

Vegetarian monks' dish (jeh)

THIS dish uses ingredients that symbolize good luck, prosperity or good fortune. Although soaking the individual ingredients takes time, most of the steps may be done one day ahead. Besides, it's worth a little effort to begin the new year with a multitude of good omens.

Ingredients
1 4 oz. package of *sotanghon* or vermicelli
20 small dried black mushrooms
1/2 oz. cloud ears or *tenga ng daga*
1/2 c. tiger lily buds or *bulaklak ng saging*
20 small dried *jujubes* (Chinese red dates)
1/2 oz. *fat choy* (black seaweed)
1/4 c. dried lotus seeds
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. + 1 tbsp. vegetable or peanut oil
1 1/2 inch piece ginger
8 to 12 oysters, soaked overnight in water to cover (optional for strict vegetarians but for good luck, why not!)
3/4 c. shelled gingko nuts
2 oz. dried bean curd sticks
4 oz. snow peas, strings removed
8 to 10 ounces tofu, cut into ¼-inch dice
1/4 c. sliced bamboo shoots, rinsed and drained
12 pcs. day *pol* (fried wheat gluten)
1 tbsp. fermented bean curd

Seasoning mixture
3 cups water
1 tbps. sugar
4 tsp. oyster sauce
1 tbsp. soy sauce

Soak the bean threads in water to cover for two hours. Meanwhile, soak the the mushrooms in a hot water in a coveredl bowl. Let stand 30 to 45 minutes to soften. Cut off the hard stems. Rinse the caps, squeeze them dry, and cut into 1/4 inch thick slices.

Put the cloud ears, tiger lily buds, jujubes, fat *choy* and lotus seeds in separate bowls, add hot water to cover, and soak for 30 minutes. Rinse the cloud ears well, drain, then cut off and discard any hard parts. Rinse and drain the tiger lily buds, then cut off the hard ends. Drain the *jujubes.*

Rinse the *fat choy* and put it in a small saucepan with the salt, one teaspoon of oil, ginger and water to cover. Bring to a boil, turn off the heat, and let stand 10 minutes. Drain the *fat choy* then gently squeeze out the water.

Open the lotus seeds and discard the bitter green part inside. Put the lotus seeds in a small saucepan with water to cover, bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain.

Rinse the soaked oysters to remove any sand. Trim off any tough parts, and then steam the oysters in a small dish for 10 minutes over medium heat until soft.

Put the ginkgo nuts in a small saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, and simmer five minutes. Drain and then skin.

Break the bean curd sticks into 2- to 3-inch pieces. Soak for 30 minutes in a small saucepan with water to cover, simmer about 10 minutes to soften, then drain. Drain the bean threads, then cut into 6-inch lengths.

You can prepare the recipe to this point a day in advance. Cover the individual ingredients separately and refrigerate.

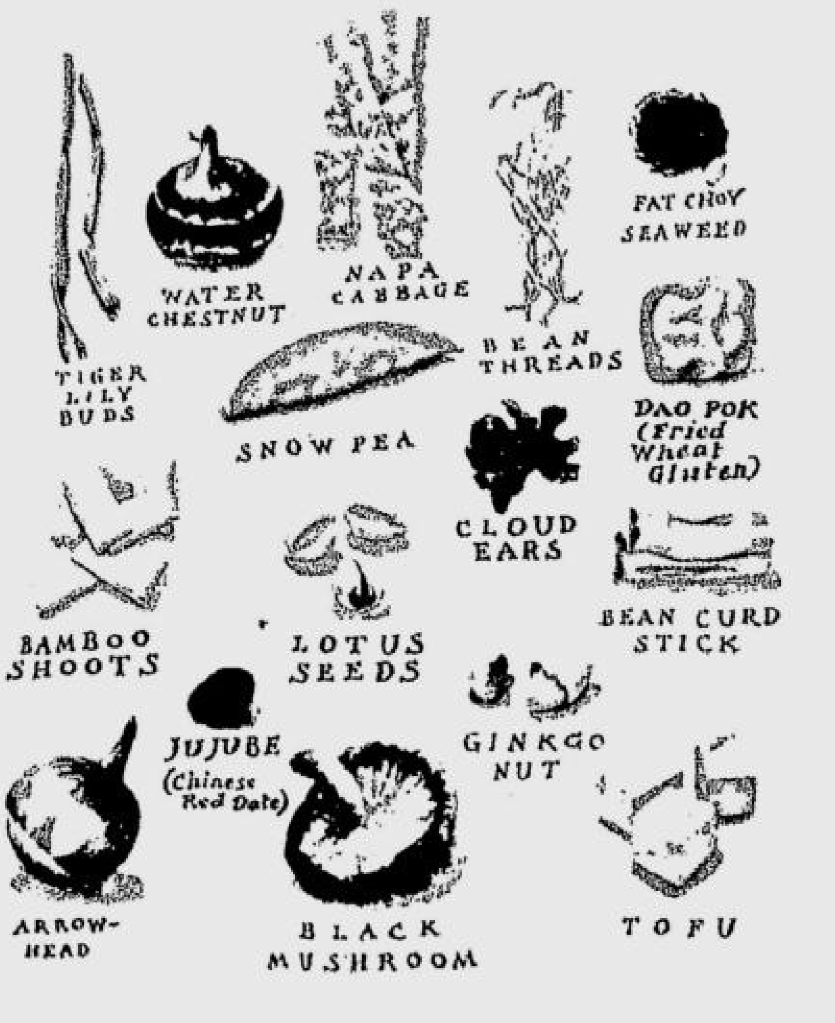
Blanch the snow peas in boiling water for 30 seconds and then rinse them under cold water and drain.

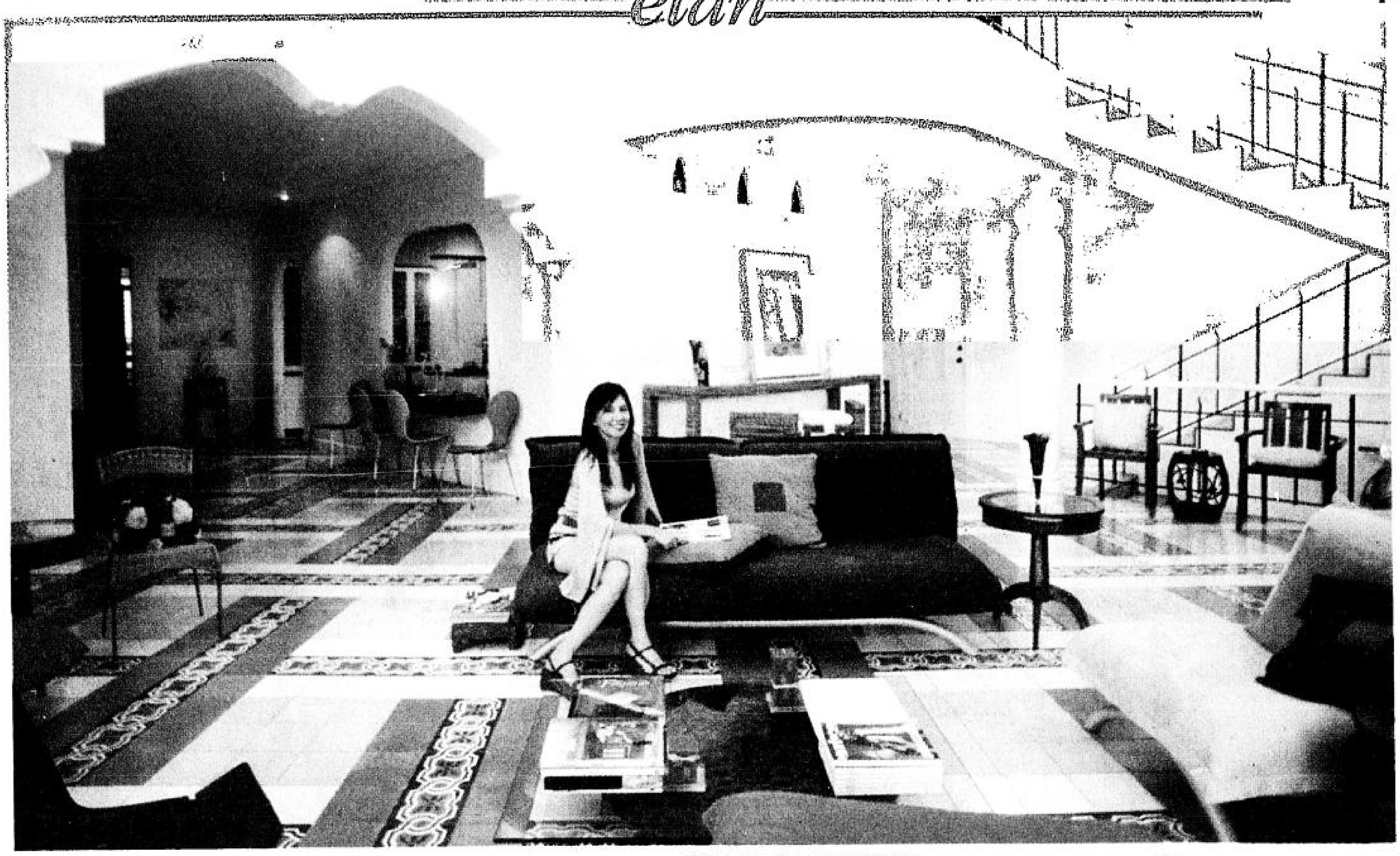
Combine the seasoning mixture ingredients in a medium bowl and set aside. Combine the mushrooms, cloud ears, tiger lily buds, fat *choy*, lotus seeds, oysters, ginkgo nuts, tofu, water chestnuts, bamboo shoots, arrowheads and *dao pok* in a large bowl. Combine the bean threads and bean curd sticks in a second bowl, and the *jujubes*, cabbage, and snow peas in a third bowl.

Heat a wok over high heat, and then heat one tablespoon of oil. Add the red and fermented bean curd, lower the heat to medium-high, and cook 15 seconds, breaking it up with a spatula. Stir in the seasoning mixture, bring to a boil, and boil for two to three minutes. Add the mushroom mixture and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the bean threads and bean curd sticks, and cook four minutes longer, stirring occasionally. Add the remaining ingredients and cook two minutes longer, tossing gently to distribute the cabbage evenly.

Serve with the rice and small dishes of red and fermented bean curd.





AS Lulu Tan-Gan is a casual person, Jim Tan designed her home that is more like a Mediterranean beach house that's transplanted to the city. The décor reflects her no-fuss, no-frills personality. The look is characterized by voluminous walls, high ceiling, white-washed walls, Etruscan-Minoan railings and colorful Machuca tiles.

Lulu goes easy on herself

LULU mixes her own design, a knitted asymmetrical top with kimono-sleeved shrug, with Dolce & Gabbana camouflage print shorts.

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru

CASUAL DINING. Lulu favors clear blue plates with matching flatware and stemwar and woven bamboo placements. Bougainvilleas from the garden and a floating candle make a simple centerpiece.

WHEN designer **Lulu Tan Gan** was attending pre-school at a Chinese kindergarten, her teacher punished her for talking to her seatmate. She was locked up in the toilet. Today the designer, often called the Knits Queen and whose RTW lines at SM Department Stores are among the most consistent bestsellers, recalls the incident with amusement. But back then, she confessed that it was "a traumatizing experience."

"Because of it, I never went back to a Chinese school. There were too much restrictions," she says. Despite her Chinese roots and basic Chinese upbringing, **Lulu** claims that she grew up not overly-influenced by anything Chinese. Being the youngest of 11 children, her parents were more liberal with her.

"My youngest brother and I were allowed to meet and socialize with Filipino kids. My mom and dad were traditional Chinese parents, but they gave us more leeway to think and decide for ourselves. Now I feel very Filipino, but unconsciously, I still think Chinese. How I act it or express it, I'm not sure," **Lulu** reveals.

It must be her astute business sense, practicality and no-frills approach that make her Chinese, she says.

Love for fashion

Lulu's love for fashion designing dates back when she was a Fine Arts student majoring in advertising art at the University of Sto. Tomas. "I first wanted to take up Foreign Service and work at the United Nations in New York," she says. "But my plan fell apart when my very protective parents objected to my going abroad to study."

At UST, **Lulu** played around with her school uniform. "I kept changing the look every year, experimenting with the length of the hem and using accessories. But I had to stick to the official colors of our uniform which were cream and maroon. Through most of college, I had to play hide-and-seek with the school principal," she remembers with a chuckle.

She started her professional career in 1978 as merchandiser for the Boutique Square at the then newly opened SM Department Store in Makati.

"I wanted to be a designer but there were quite a few of them at SM then, like **Jeannie Goulbourn**, **Cesar Gaupo** and **Carlos Badidoy**. When the store expanded, I finally got my wish."

On her first year as a RTW designer at SM, she had her first career high when **Mina Gabor**, then the director of Center for International Trade and Export Missions, brought her and other Filipino designers like **Mike dela Rosa**, **Danny dela Cuesta** and **Pando** to Paris, on a mission to "brand" labels.

"**Mrs. Gabor** was ahead of everybody else in helping steer Philippine fashion towards world-class market acceptance," **Lulu** says, paying tribute to the former Tourism Secretary.

Innovations

Lulu has had many more achievements since then. She is largely credited for successfully introducing knits to the domestic apparel market. She transformed the thick, synthetic yarn that used to be associated with winter wear into a viable fashion fabric that can be used and worn in a tropical country like the Philippines.

"I sort of educated the market on the practical and functional characteristics of knitwear by injecting trends, silhouettes and colors that adapt well to our warm climate," she says.

Lulu also takes deserved pride in her advocacy to encourage and give impetus to young and talented designers. As chair of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), she is at the helm of the annual search for our representative to the prestigious Concour Internationale, Createur de Mode in Paris.

But what gives **Lulu** the most feeling of fulfillment is her longevity in the RTW rag trade. "To survive in business after 20 years is for me, my biggest achievement. In home design, you can sell the same products the next five years, but in off-the-rack clothing, the product life span is only three to six months. The designer must be constantly updated with trends and be continuously innovating or else she'll find her clothes gathering dust in the shelves!"

Icons

For this reason, **Lulu** expresses admiration to designers, who are not afraid to try new ideas and win accolades in the process, like **Paul Poiret**, whose fashion revolution was based on the ideal of liberation; **Coco Chanel** who turned the jersey, once used mostly for athlete's uniforms, into a chic fashion fabric; **Madeleine Vionnet**, authoress of the haltered and cowl necklines and who developed the bias-cut technique; **Christian Dior**, who invented the "New Look" and popularized the A-Line; and of course, **Mary Quant**, the "Mother of the Mini."

Other fashion icons who rate big in Lulu's books are **Yves St. Laurent**, **Azzedine Alaia** whose name has become synonymous to body-hugging and stretch fashion, **Vivienne Westwood**, **Karl Lagerfeld** whom she calls "The Madonna of High Fashion" because of his inventiveness, and **Levi Strauss** (technically not a designer but a tailor), the Bavarian immigrant who made the first denim workpants that ultimately became the "universal uniform of the young."

Lulu belongs to the rare breed of fashion designers who look as stylish as their creations. With her flowing dark hair, whistle-bait figure and long, flawless legs, she cuts an eye-catching figure everywhere she goes.

"Style is the ability to be unique, original and attractive, coupled with a sense of relaxed attitude," she explains. "Effortless is the definitive word for my concept of style. One has to be completely confident about who she is, what she does and why she does things. Having style means attaining a consistent level of taste whether you were born with it or you acquired it. Great style for me is the ability to put together the new and the old, the traditional and the avante garde. Money has little to do with style, although it certainly helps."

Lulu lives and breathes her idea of style in her works, as well as in her life. "I'm just myself," she reveals. "I really have no fronts. I am usually happy and cool, and always comfortable with myself. I guess I'm your typical Aquarian, more mental than emotional, a non-conformist and always adventurous."

Dreams

Despite her considerable success, **Lulu** admits that she has a few dreams yet to be realized. She whimsically hopes of someday owning an apartment in Paris, a city she fell in love with the first time she saw it in 1983. She also wishes that she will have the time to go back to swimming as an exercise, and go back to school to "keep my mind from stagnating and keep up with the fast-changing times."

Happily, there are few things that **Lulu** could ask for in her personal life. She just finished the interiors of her new house, putting her concept of style in the décor and furnishings. Relaxed and unhurried after a full day at her RTW factory, she is a loving wife to Israeli businessman **Joseph Gueta** whom she married in 1998, and a devoted mother to her two teenaged children Sam and Jess. Together, Lulu and Joseph dote on their extended family—their dogs and two brand-new puppies.

"Rufus is our golden retriever, Indi our exotic German pointer and Pao is our smart Sharpei who gave birth recently to two baby Sharpees whom we named Blackball and Brownball," **Lulu** says gleefully.

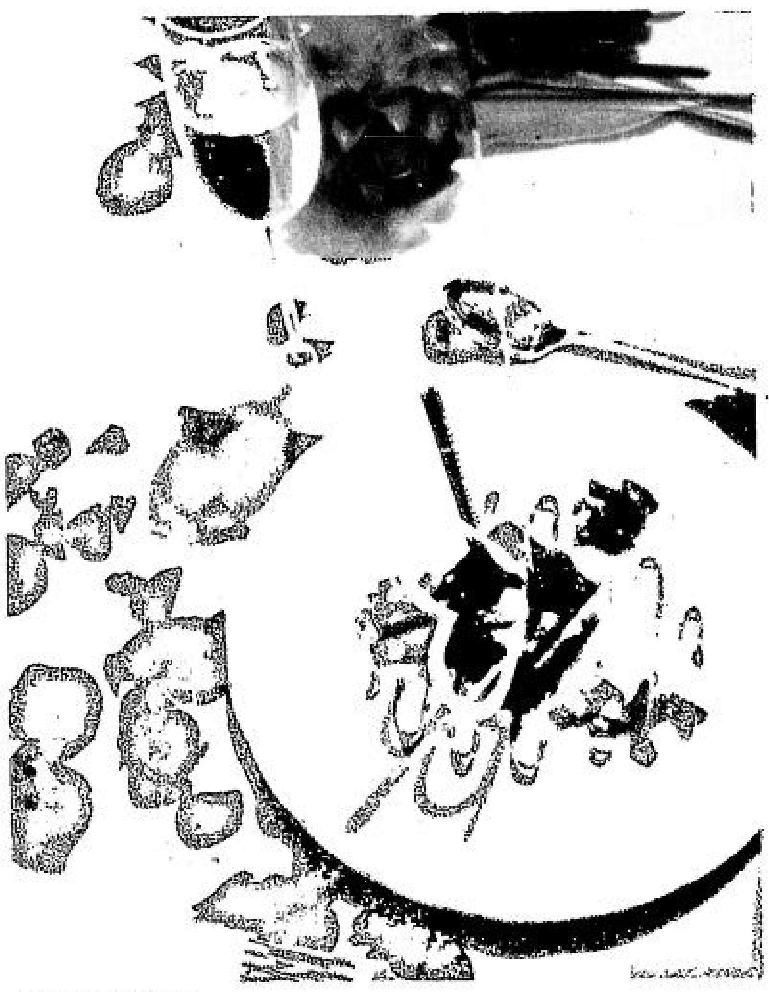
Queen of Knits? **Lulu** laughs good-naturedly of the title. In typical self-deprecating fashion, she quips, "I can't be a princess at my age! Ha-ha-ha!" as she breaks into her trademark girlish giggle. That's style!

Designer Lulu Tan-Gan defines style as being original without trying too hard

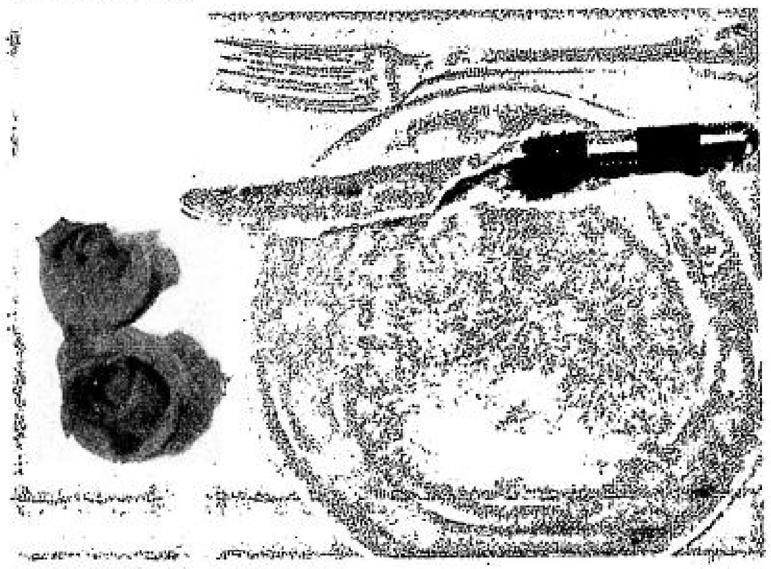
BAR NONE. The reception table doubles as a buffet service in parties. Milo Naval of Movement Eight designed the set, made of *bakbak*. Senestrations on the wall make an interesting design. Painting by Rock Drilon.

DEN for cocooning. Lulu decorates the room with Milo Naval's modern, rope-covered furniture with canvas upholstery. The Pucci chaise longue doubles as a bed. Triangular crocodile stools with stainless steel legs complement Naval's modern design. The ostrich lamp with wooden stand is another object of interest.

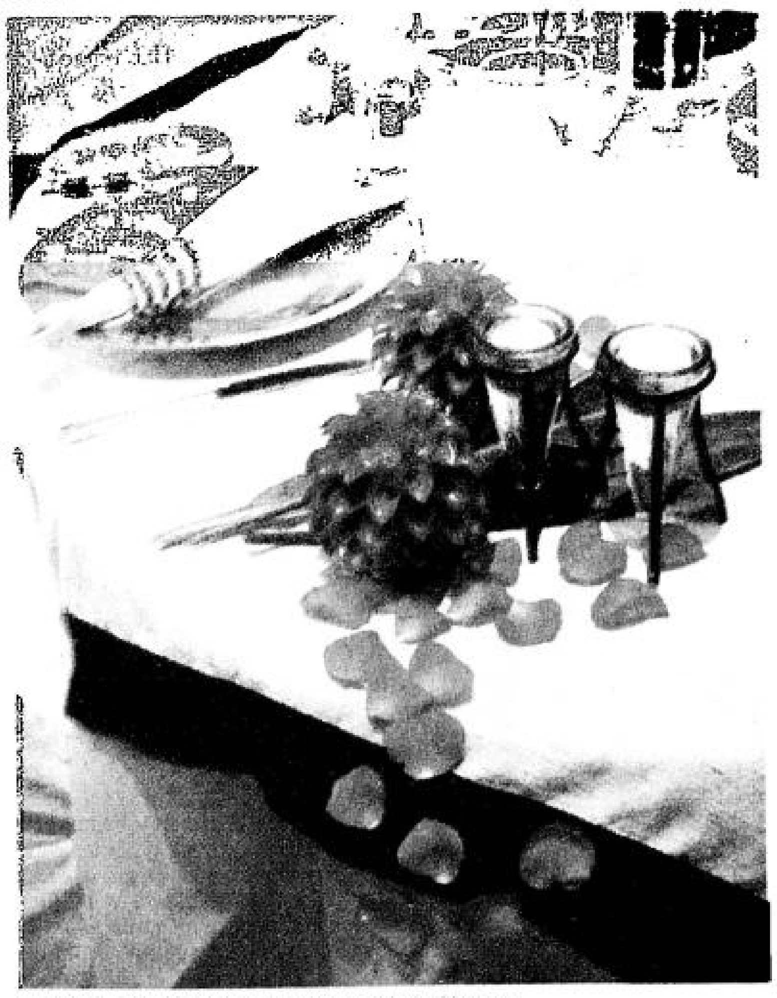
Outpouring of love through the senses



SWEET nothings.



ROSEBUDS make a statement.



SIMPLY elegant. Ginger plant and pink ti leaves.

Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

BEAUTY is gift. It's a reassurance that our flow of love upon the world is returned to us in a perfect exchange. As we experience a graceful artwork, a well-prepared gourmet meal, heart-melting music, or a floral arrangement, we experience beauty in its sensory form.

Beauty reminds us that we are all artists whose act of love is a creation brightens up the world.

A Valentine date is made special if set in a romantic setting. Tony Padilla of Floral Designs sets the mood in one of the finest restaurants in the city, Old Manila at the Peninsula. Known for his powerful but elegantly restrained style, Padilla made a simple floral arrangement that would not compete with the flamboyant setting of the restaurant. Traditional rose petals, his trademark ginger plant and pink ti leaves, commonly used for healing and wrapping rice foods were enough to make a statement.

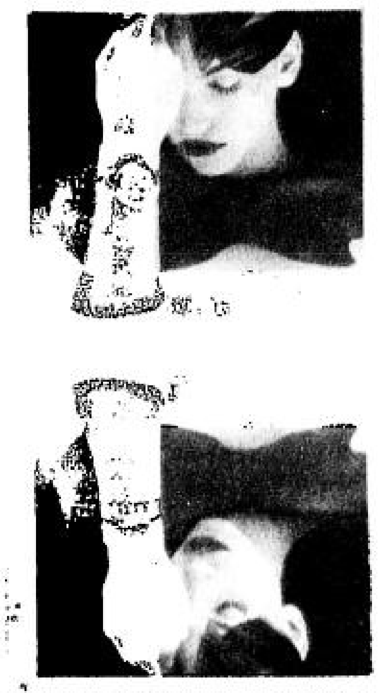
Old Manila's Valentine menu is laden with aphrodisiacs. Start the meal with three preparations of crabmeat, followed by tartar of tuna and poached quail egg surprise. For *foie gras* lovers, they can enjoy smoked with pigeon salad or with scallops *pot au feu.*

Warm up your senses with hot and sour broth with *langoustine* and sea urchin or sole. For the first course, take your choice of lobster and avocado ballotine *a la duglere* or ravioli of crepes, *girolles* and truffles ragout with white truffle foam. If you want a rich main course, there's roasted lamb fillet in gingerbread crust, goat's cheese and eggplant *moussaka*, fava beans with a side dish of tomato risotto in tempura or baked baby turbot, with parsley *tagliatele* and roasted artichoke, drenched in truffle sauce.

Finish the meal with another aphrodisiac—ice chocolate parfait strawberry compote mint sauce.

INSTEAD of a resplendent centerpiece that would compete with Impy Pilapil's artwork, Tony Padilla creates a simple arrangement, made dramatic by party rose petals strewn from the table to the floor.

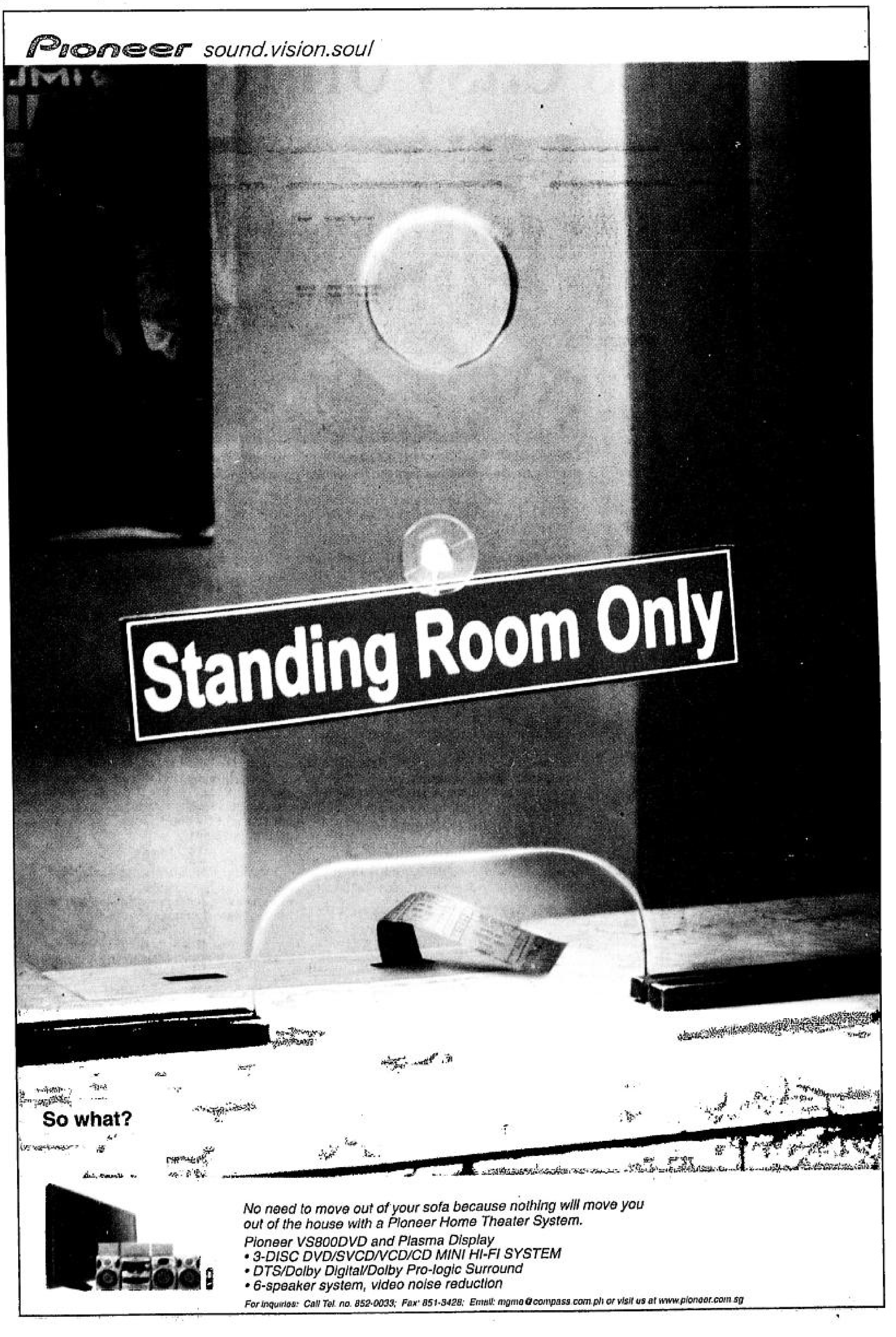
Time has no limit



TANK Francaise steel watch and Pasha steel watch

MAN invented time. It's a contraption of the psyche that makes it possible for you to believe that the flow of life can be measured. You feel the necessity to quantify our past, present and future, using clocks and watches. You cannot perform without being able to know the accurate time at any given moment. Don't let this acute sensitivity to time make the timepiece your master, holding back your ability to live for the moment.

You can undo the tyranny of time by living for the moment and following your own body rhythms. There may be several errands you need to do. Set your priorities. Busy yourself on them one after the other. As you devote yourself to each activity, focus on its quality. Remember that this day is devoted to quality, not to achievement. Enjoy the process rather than the results.



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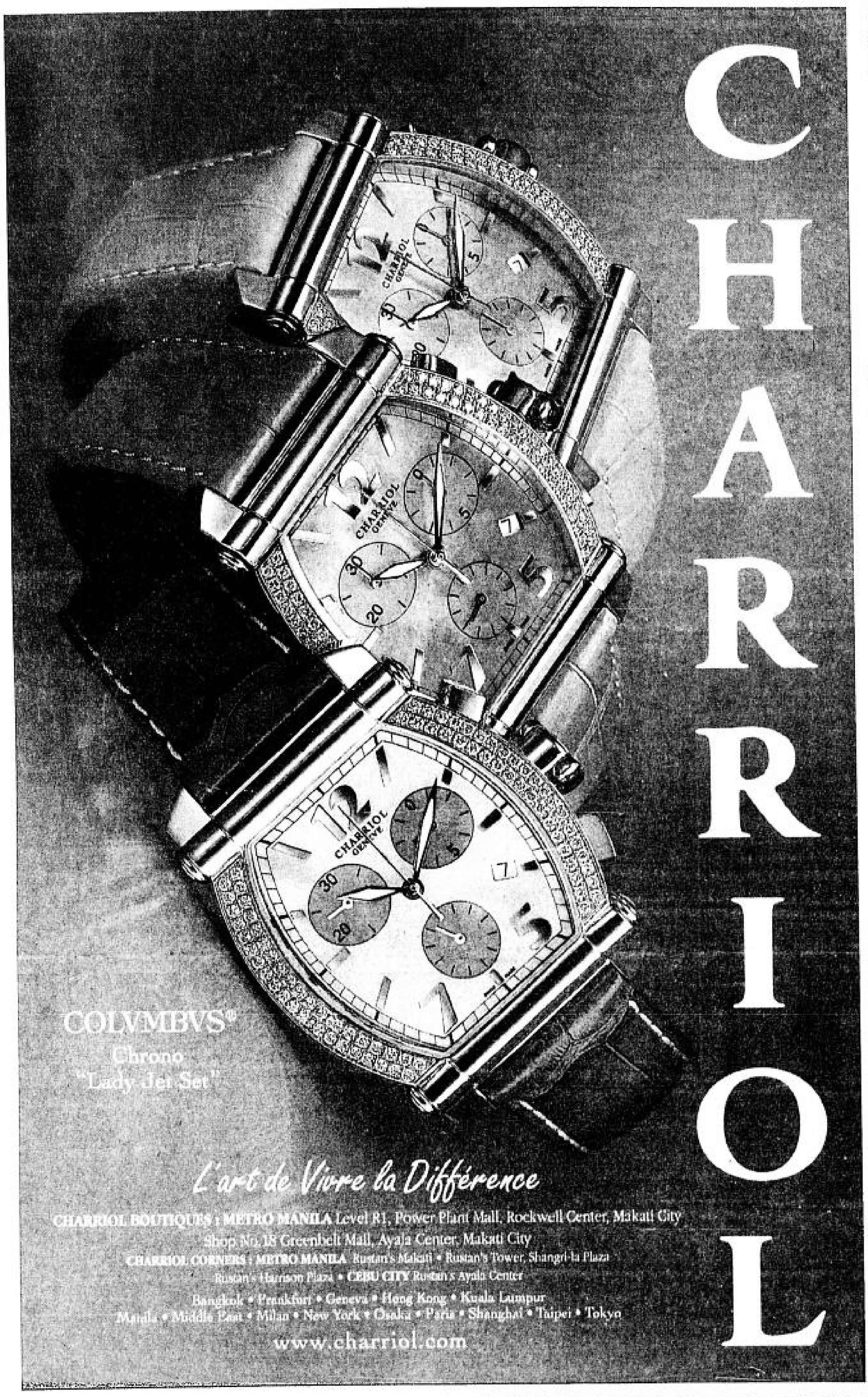
ROBERTS. From No.8 to No.1.

Roberts, Cruise, Hanks–most bankable film stars

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—They may not be on anyone's Oscar list this year, but Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts all tied for the title of Hollywood's most bankable star in a poll by show biz paper The Hollywood Reporter.

ROBERTS/ p.E2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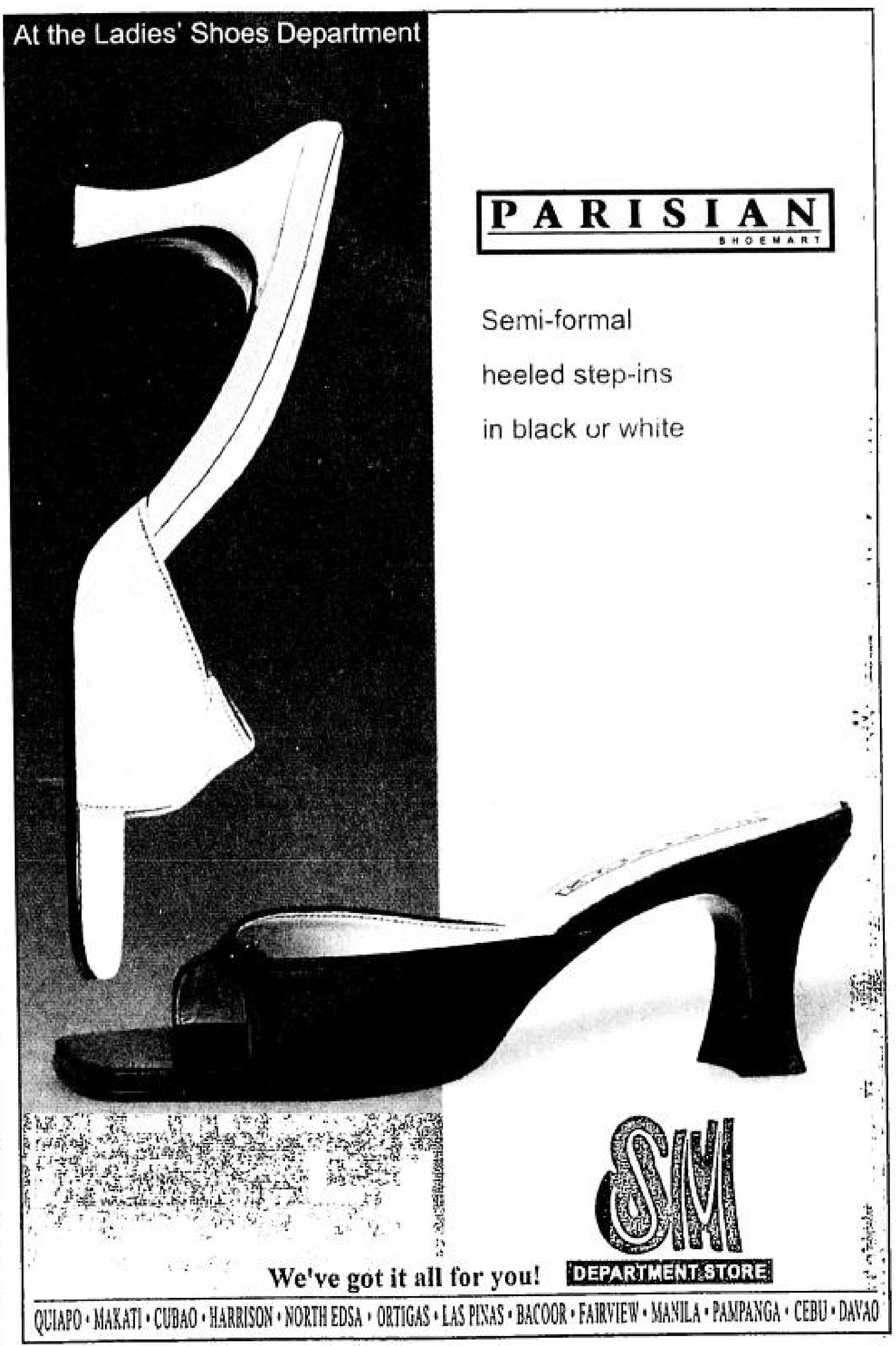
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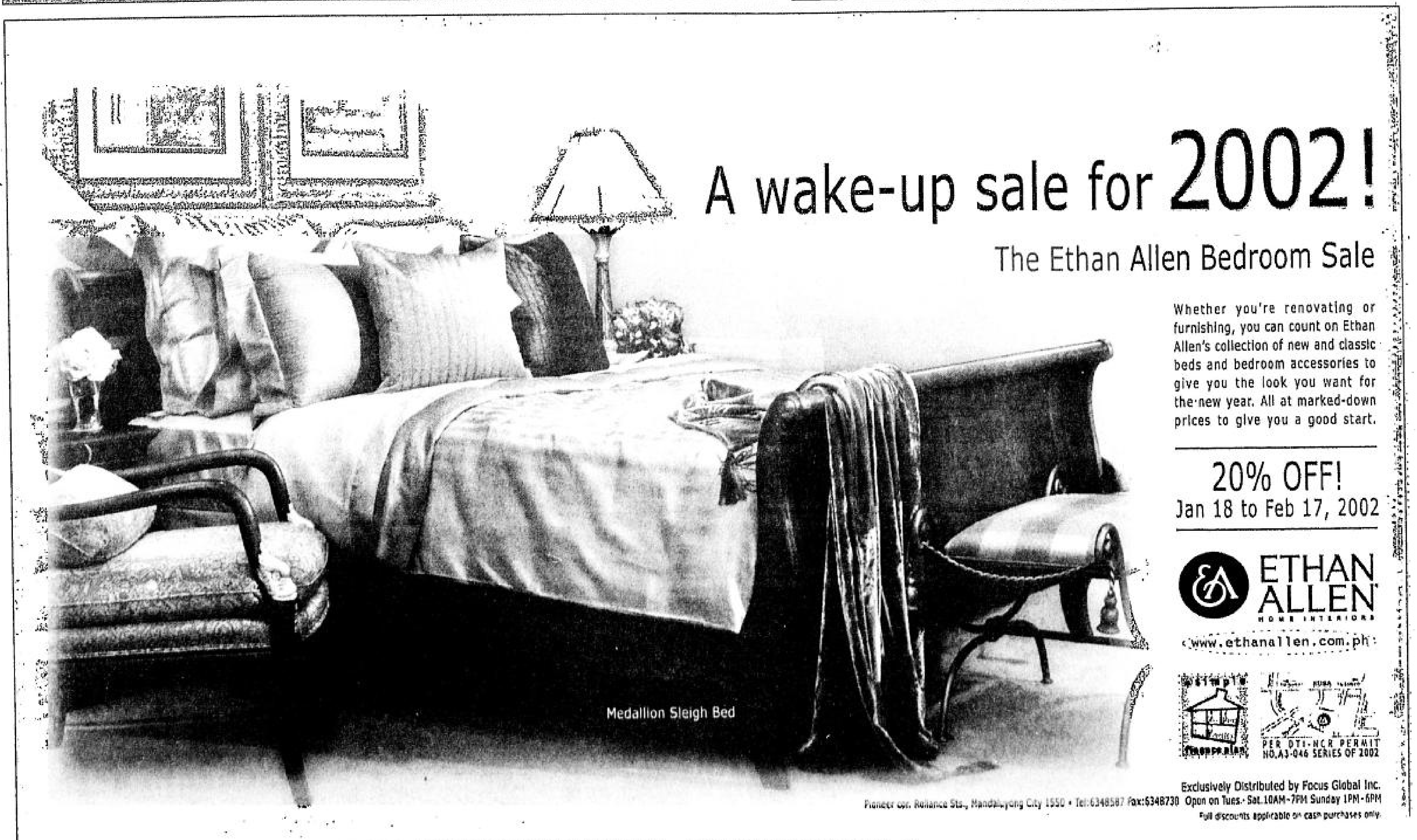
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Roberts, Cruise, Hanks–most bankable film stars

HANKS. Has been a top draw for years.

From page E1

While those three will likely not be nominated for 2002's Oscars, Hollywood's highest film honors given out in March each year, winning a little golden statue can make a big difference to a star's moviemaking power.

In 1999, the last time the 72-year-old Hollywood Reporter put out a similar list of celebrities who can draw huge audiences to theaters worldwide, Roberts was back at No. 8.

This year, she became the first woman to lay claim to the No. 1 spot after winning an Oscar last year for "Erin Brockovich" and becoming Hollywood's highest paid movie actress, commanding $20 million per picture.

Roberts is the only woman among the top 10 stars on what the Hollywood Reporter calls its StarPower 2002 survey.

Several other female stars like Sandra Bullock, Cameron Diaz and Nicole Kidman, ranked high on the list with ratings in the "Strong Star Power" category—as opposed to Roberts' 100 percent "Maximum Star Power" rating.

Upper levels

"Certainly at the upper levels, you are seeing some strides being made," said John Burman, editor of The Hollywood Reporter's International Edition. "It's pointing in the right direction, but there's still a way to go."

Burman said the survey polled 114 executives at both major studios and independent companies, financiers and various industry players from around the world.

It measured not only the stars' box office drawing power, but also the ability to get films funded and obtain wide distribution in multiple countries based on the strength of their names.

Oscars boost global bankability because the awards telecast annually is seen by an estimated one billion people worldwide.

Russell Crowe, last year's Oscar winner for "Gladiator," saw his starpower skyrocket this year from a mid-level ranking in 1999 to No. 7 among the 130 celebrities making the list.

Crowe will likely compete for a best actor Oscar this year in "A Beautiful Mind," as might Kidman for best actress in "Moulin Rouge." Oscar nominations come out on Feb. 12.

Top 20

Of the top 20 finishers in this year's poll, 12 have been nominated for an Academy Award as an actor. Eight have won.

The poll scored 1,000 actors on their "bankability" with a top score being 100. Hanks, Cruise and Roberts all reached that magic mark. Next came Mel Gibson with a 98.68, Jim Carrey at 98.46, George Clooney at 95.18 and Crowe with 94.74.

After Roberts, the next female was Sandra Bullock with an 87.28, then Cameron Diaz at 84.87 and Nicole Kidman at 84.65.

Two African-Americans, Will Smith and Denzel Washington, ranked in the "maximum" range with 89.91 and 89.04, respectively.

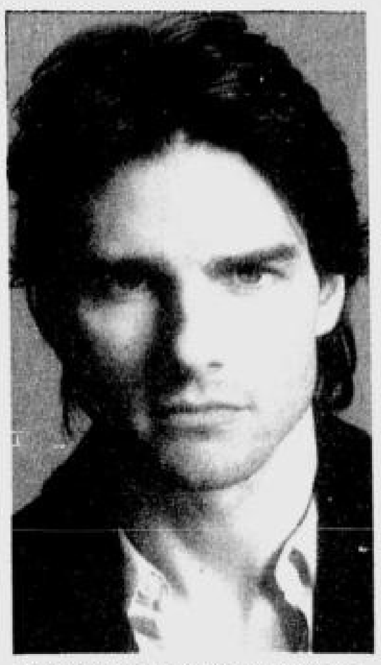
Lists like "StarPower 2002" are a serious business in Hollywood, because often industry executives use them to judge an actor's rising popularity around the globe. Josh Hartnett, who stars in the current hit "Black Hawk Down" was a lowly 6.85 in 1999, but is up at 49.56 this year.

"Legally Blonde" star Reese Witherspoon scored a 40.11 in 1999 and a 66.01 this year. Likewise, Vin Diesel of summer 2001 smash hit "The Fast and The Furious" wasn't on the 1999 list, and this year he came in at a moderately bankable 54.17.

A list of the top 10 stars in The Hollywood Reporter's survey and their scores follows:

- Tom Cruise (100.00)
- Tom Hanks (100.00)
- Julia Roberts (100.00)
- Mel Gibson (98.68)
- Jim Carrey (98.46)
- George Clooney (95.18)
- Russell Crowe (94.74)
- Harrison Ford (94.74)
- Bruce Willis (94.30)
- Brad Pitt (92.98)

Reuters



CRUISE. His last, few starrers have all been blockbusters.

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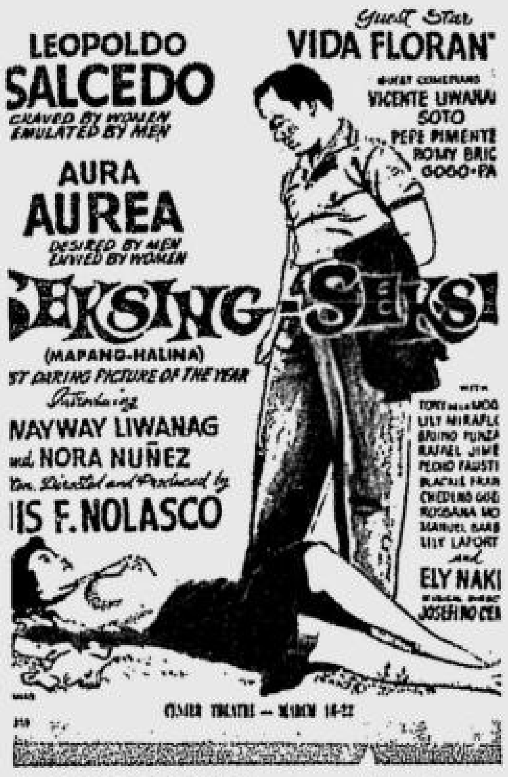
"OUR SON THE MATCHMAKER." A story of a young man's efforts to reunite his parents 30 years after he was given up for adoption.

NATURAL puts the band back into boy bands.

SHARON Cuneta welcomes guests Bayani Agbayani, Gary Lim and Bentong this Sunday on her TV show's "Let's Talk Love" special "My Funny Dyowa."



"SEKSING-SEKSI." A restored Tagalog classic showing at Pelikula at Lipunan.

More 'golden oldies' restored

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILM buffs concerned about the continuing deterioration of our old movies will be heartened to know that four newly-restored Filipino films will be screened in the Pelikula at Lipunan festival from Feb. 13 to 19 at SM Megamall.

The restoration of the four movies is supported by the National Cinema Program , the Society of Film Archivists (Sofia) and the NCCA.

The newly restored films are "Jack & Jill," with Dolphy and Lolita Rodriguez playing gay and tomboy characters, respectively, directed by Mar Torres.

"Seksing Seksi (Mapanghalina)," with Aura Aurea cast as an innocent country lass who is pursued by lecherous men in the big city; direction is by Luis Nolasco.

"M.N. (Marissa Navarro)," with Carmen Rosales playing the title role of a landlady troubled by the strictures of her upperclass upbringing. Another Mar Torres film.

"Sanda Wong," a complicated Chinese morality tale about feudal gang rivalries, directed by National Artist for Film Gerry de Leon, and topbilling Jose Padilla Jr. and Lilia Dizon.

Let's hope that more old Filipino movies will be restored this year, to add to the short list of films saved from complete deterioration. New generations of film buffs have a lot to learn from these golden oldies.

'Our Son, the Matchmaker'

A heartwarming movie about love lost and found, "Our Son, the Matchmaker" is the Hallmark Channel's special Valentine presentation at 9 p.m. on Feb 14.

The movie's script is based on the true story of Julie Longwell, a woman who gets her second chance at love through her only son, whom she gave up for adoption 25 years earlier.

When she was 15, Julie got pregnant by Steve Carson. Her mother sends her to a home for unwed mothers, and the minute her baby boy is born, he is given up for adoption.

Eventually, Julie and her now grown-up son meet. He convinces her to join him in looking for his long-lost father. They are able to track him down, and Julie realizes that she has never stopped loving him. The big question is, can he reciprocate that love after all these years?

The young Julie is played by Ann Jillian, while she is portrayed in maturity by Ellen Burstyn. Cast as Julie's son is Drew Ebersole.

Natural at Streetlife

This past week, the five-man music group, Natural, has been going on a campus and mall tour. Tonight at 9 p.m., they will perform at Streetlife, Glorietta IV, Makati City. The show's front act is Antoinette Taus.

MTV Philippines is also highlighting the group by way of its "Bring the Boys Home" contest, which requires entrants to write MTV the five ingredients that make a boy band great. Natural will visit the winner today, and the coverage will be aired on MTV.

Natural's CD of "Put Your Arms Around Me" is available at Odyssey, Tower Records, Music One and Radio City. The boy band is composed of young male singers whose edge over the competition is their ability to play their own instruments—from the guitar, piano and drums to the violin, French horn and saxophone.

Ancheta duo

Sopranos Ma. Elizabeth Ancheta and Ma. Teresa Ancheta will perform European and Asian art songs at 2 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Lyceum of the Philippines. The singers are faculty members of the PWU College of Music.

Also featured is pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo. The concert is a cultural activity on the occasion of Foreign Service Week at the Lyceum.

TV treats

At 10 a.m. tomorrow, Feb. 10, Channel 2's "Hirayamanawari" goes to Bais, Negros Oriental. A brilliant pianist (Rannie Raymundo) comes home to the sleepy town to challenge the reputation of his former teacher, and puts up a rival piano school.

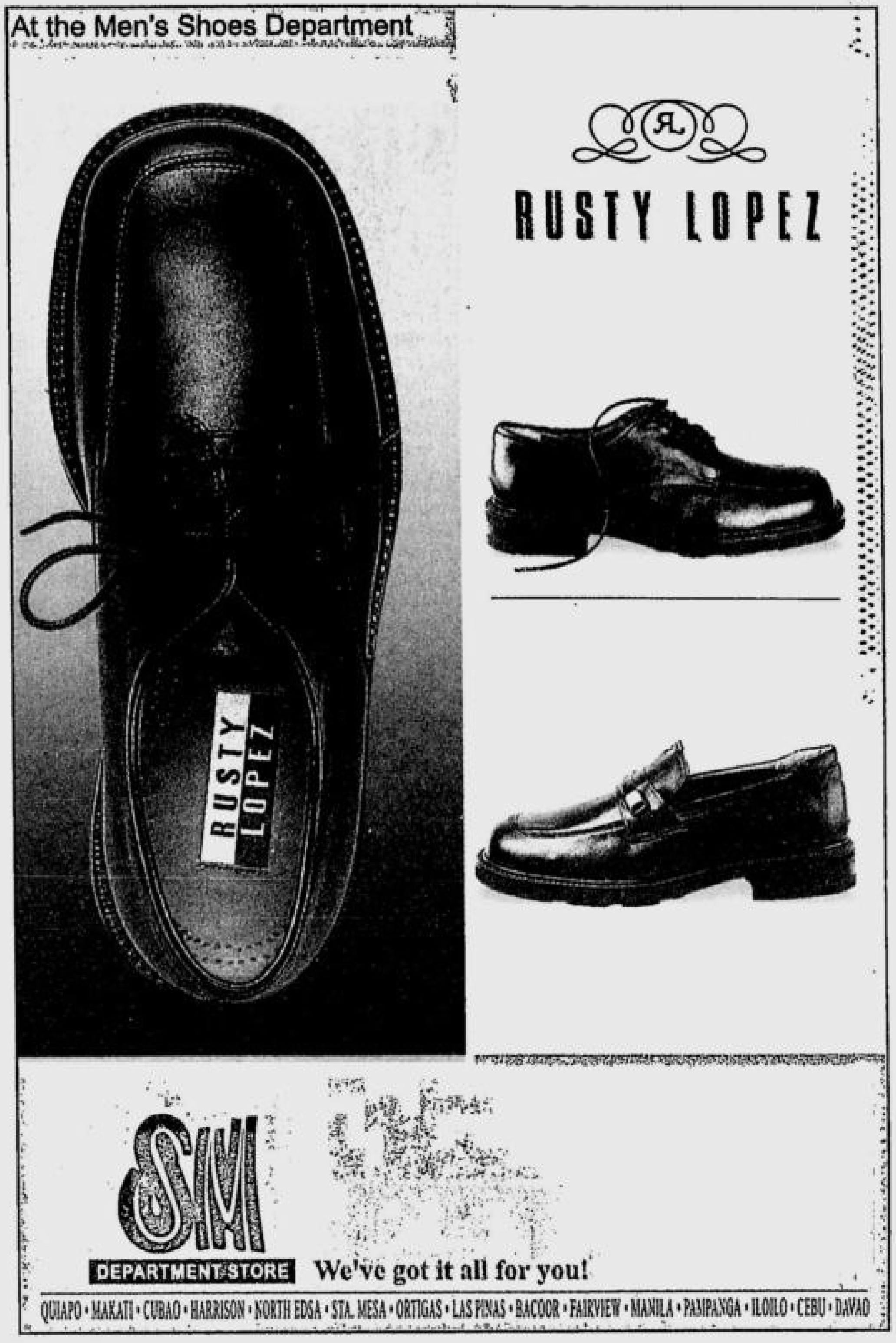
Will the maestro's last remaining student, the houseboy Pepe, prove to be a virtuoso like the ambitious ingrate, Luis?

Later at 5:30 p.m, Sharon Cuneta's TV show presents "My Funny Jowa," an interview with comedians Bayani Agbayani, Gary Lim, Bentong, Gabe Mercado, the Porkchop Duo and Norman Mitchell and their respective wives.

Apo at Alabang

Tomorrow, Feb. 10, the Apo Hiking Society and Agot Isidro topbill a pre-Valentine dinner show at the Alabang Town Center's Town Plaza. Patrons can dine al fresco and get a chance to win an overnight stay for four at Mandarin Oriental Manila by way of the "Romancing the Town" promo.

At 2 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14, the Town welcomes the Chinese New Year (the Year of the Horse). And on Feb. 16 and 17, the mall's Valentine Fair features exciting activities for the young and the young at heart. At 7 p.m. on Feb 16, the Pido with Take One band will perform for mallgoers.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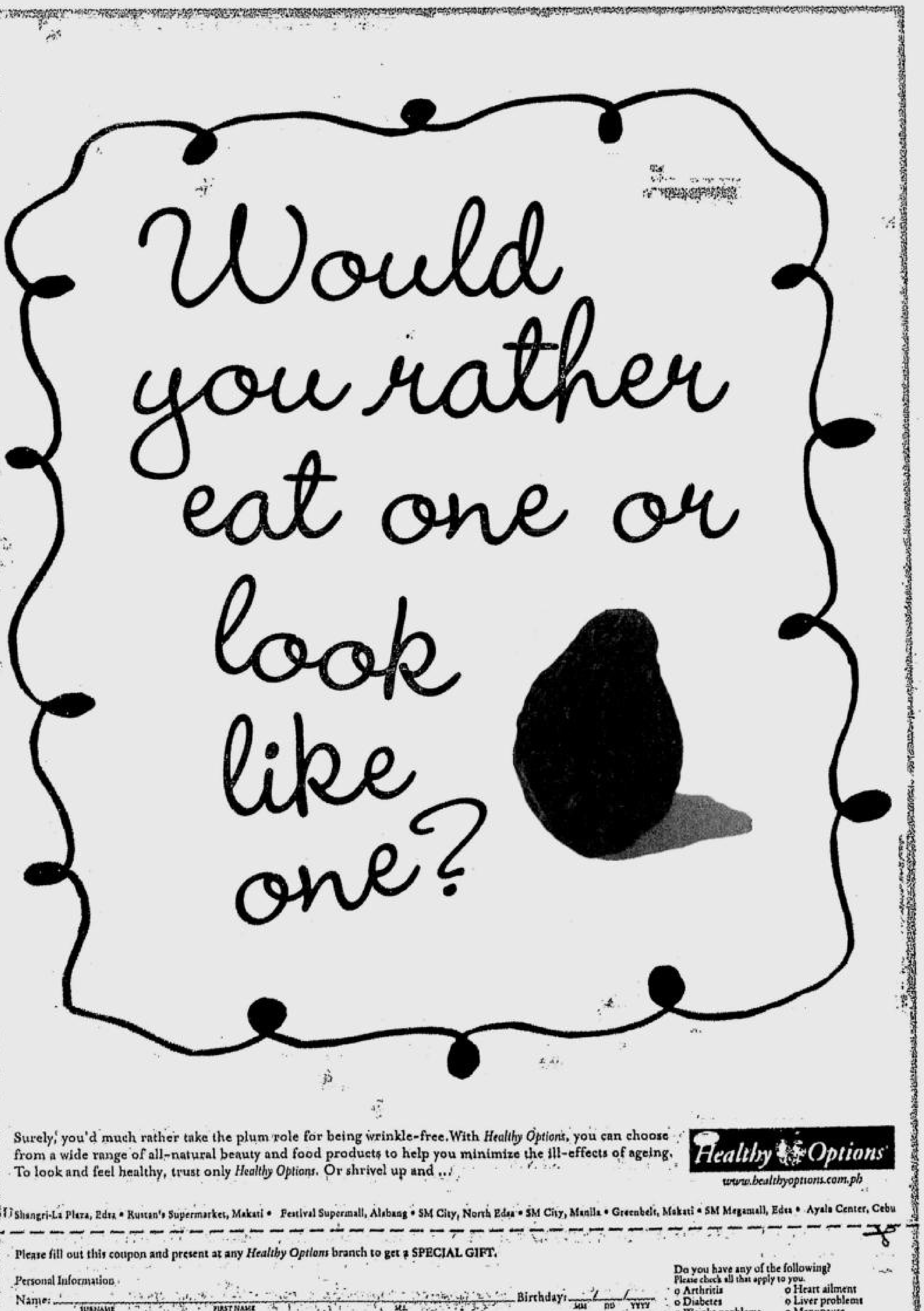
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2002 Berlin film festival opens with promise to help revitalize the German film industry

By Stephen Graham

BERLIN—Berlin's film festival opened last Wednesday, kicking off two weeks of star-studded rivalry for this year's Golden Bear award that its new director hopes will give a fresh push to German talent struggling against—or to reach—Hollywood.

More than 400 films are expected to attract some 120,000 cinemagoers, making it the world's most popular film festival, while actress Cate Blanchett and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder were among the guests at the gala opening.

Greater emphasis

But with cold, gray Berlin in February doomed to struggle against Cannes or Venice for international glamour, the new festival director is to put greater emphasis on promoting Germany's own rising stars at home and abroad.

The Feb. 6-17 festival opened with the first showing of German director Tom Tykwer's "Heaven," a mixture of thriller, love story and moral drama made in cooperation with Disney-owned studio Miramax and starring Blanchett and Giovanni Ribisi.

Tykwer, considered the country's hottest directing talent after his 1999 hit "Run Lola Run," is one of four German directors with films in the main competition—the highest number for a quarter-century.

"It's a strong showing for German film," said Kosslick. "And I think it was time for that."

23 films

Twenty-three films are running for the Golden Bear, which will be announced Feb. 17. Among them are three US entries including Wes Anderson's "The Royal Tenenbaums" with Gene Hackman and Gwyneth Paltrow.

While much of the attention will still be focused on the high-profile race for the Golden Bear, German officials' focus is on building support for small production houses that form the backbone of the country's film industry.

German-made films accounted for 15 percent of the home market last year, a slight increase over the average. But the industry is still smaller than that of France, Italy or Spain, and has scored fewer hits abroad.

That share should be closer to half, according to Culture Minister Julian Nida-Ruemelin, who argues that Germany should follow France in heavily subsidizing domestic filmmaking—an approach that has drawn stinging criticism from the United States.

THE BERLIN Film Fetsival Jury: From left, Kanako Hayashi, Japan; Sigrid Hoerner, Germany; Andrei Plakhov, Russia; Renee Soutendyk, Netherlands; and Babak Payami, Iran. AP

"The film industry is clearly under-financed," Nida-Ruemelin said at a news conference Monday, complaining that Germany also lags behind Scandinavian countries such as Sweden.

16 states

His message appeared directed mostly at Germany's 16 states, which control most of the funding for the arts—a system that festival director Kosslick knows well as a former head of the film foundation in North-Rhine Westphalia.

To help translate that scattered support into more successful films, Kosslick aims to make the Berlinale into a stronger hub. The 52nd edition of the festival features a new category titled "German Film Prospects" to showcase young directors.

Another section, "German Cinema," is devoted to a small selection of films with international appeal and reserved for industry insiders such as buyers from television stations.

Starting next year, the festival will also include a "talent campus," a workshop for up-and-coming directors, film writers and actors to exchange ideas and establish all-important contacts with leading lights from the industry.

"The aim is also that the German film industry and producers identify as strongly with the Berlinale as the French with Cannes," Kosslick said in an interview.

But the industry itself seems divided about the best way to reach the bigger, international audiences they desire.

Epic

Last year's festival opened with "Enemy at the Gates," French director Jean-Jacques Annaud's epic set during the World War II battle of Stalingrad. Like Tykwer's "Heaven," it was an example of how European film companies have sought partners to pitch English-language movies to an international audience.

Annaud's film flopped at the box office, but production companies say sharing the cost of big-budget projects is a welcome development that gives films a chance of success overseas.

Nevertheless, most German films still are aimed at a German-speaking audience, said Hans-Gert Eschweiter, head of communications at Munich-based Bavaria Films.

"That's still the biggest barrier" to marketing the films abroad, he said. "Beyond the arthouse cinemas, audiences in North America or Britain are just not used to reading subtitles."

Tykwer has gone a step further, linking up with a Hollywood giant in a way that rings alarm bells for some Europeans convinced that many a European director's edge was blunted by Tinseltown.

"It's different when you know America is on board," Tykwer told Sunday's Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper, claiming the pressure helped inspire some of his best ideas. "The apparatus is huge, but there were none of the horror stories of how the Americans rip the film from your grasp." *AP*

'Amelie' receives record number of nominations for French film awards

PARIS—France's imaginative romantic comedy "Amelie" has collected a record 13 nominations for the Cesar awards, event organizers said Monday.

Leading candidate

Already the top-grossing French film ever in the United States, "Amelie" is also expected to be a leading candidate for best foreign film honors at the Oscars on March 24.

For the Cesar awards, the French version of the Oscars, the film won nominations for best film, best director (Jean-Pierre Jeunet), best actress (Audrey Tautou), supporting actress (Isabelle Nanty), screenplay, music, costumes, art direction, photography, sound and editing. It also received two nominations for best supporting actor.

"Amelie," which has charmed European audiences and broken box-office records in France, is a modern fairy tale about being kind to strangers and loving each other. It stars Mathieu Kassovitz and the doe-eyed, delightfully coy young newcomer Tautou, as Amelie.

Other nominees

The other nominees for best film are "Sous le Sable" ("Under the Sand") by Francois Ozon, "Sur mes levres" ("Read my lips") by Jacques Audiard, "La Chambre des Officiers" ("The Officer's Ward") and Colline Serreau's "Chaos," said the event's organizer, the Academy of Cinema Arts and Sciences said.

Nominated for best foreign film were Joel Coen's "The Man Who Wasn't There," "Son's Room" by Nanni Moretti, "Moulin Rouge" by Baz Luhrmann, David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive" and "Traffic" by Steven Soderbergh.

The 27th Cesar awards are to take place in Paris on March 2.

Actor Jeremy Irons, director Claude Rich and actress Anouk Aimee are to receive honorary awards.

The 1981 Francois Truffaut classic "The Last Metro" and "Cyrano de Bergerac," a 1992 film starring Gerard Depardieu, share the record for 10 Cesars. *AP*

'AMELIE.' Top-grossing French film ever in the US.

Howie Severino sees history unfold

By Darwin Obeso

SINCE the fifth grade, Howie Severino had already set his sights on journalism. But, when he went to college, he took up History. He reasoned that his choice would give him deeper background toward his ambition. In his view, history is, in reality, journalism made in the past.

Right decision

"If journalism is history in a hurry, I think history is journalism in slow motion; what you write today is history tomorrow," observes Severino. He would later prove that he had made the right decision, as history would come to play in his daily coverage.

As a journalist, Severino has seen history unfolding the hard way. He had consumed conflicts for breakfast, passed through war zones while evading furious bullets from all sides, climbed precariously on the roof of public transports to follow story leads, etc. Those exploits are his direct lessons in history.

Having been a journalist for 14 years now, this magna cum laude graduate from Tufts University in Massachusetts reflects that his coverage of conflict stories has greatly influenced his life. While reporting for the "The Probe Team" last year, he recalled that his experience during the battle of Lamitan was an eye-opener.

His report featured a group of journalists who were caught in the crossfire between Abu Sayyaf bandits and government troopers.

Big impact

"That had a big impact on me because I really thought that my life was in danger. *Matatauhan ka,* you start valuing your life more," Severino admits.

Digging deeper into the Mindanao conflict, Severino says it will take a long time for the complex situation to improve.

But the former Ateneo teacher also has a more enlightened view of the situation in Mindanao. "I've seen a lot more harmony than enmity in Mindanao," Severino notes.

SEVERINO. Conflicts for breakfast.

He concludes that a lot of the problem is political, "started by a few individuals, and it just grew from there. But unlike in other countries, where there's a lot of ethnic hatred and cleansing, we are accepting. We are bound by openness to each other."

Drawing out from his deep background in history, Severino further explained that the root cause of the problem is the idea of communal ownership by the original settlers.

"The migrants didn't have this concept. They just took land away from the indigenous people who were regarded as little more than wildlife. Up to now these attitudes still exist in Mindanao."

Farmer's murder

Perhaps, there is no other reporter who understands as fully the plight of the less privileged and the indigenous people. In 1998, Severino submitted one of his most incisive reports on television, on a landless farmer's murder in Quezon province. That story stumbled on the Land Reform issue, which awakened sleeping government officials to act promptly on the convoluted case.

In another report he scooped last year, Severino scoured the hilly terrains of Bukidnon alone to expose the brutal conditions of a group of Manobos who had been fighting for their land rights for years.

Disturbing footage

Severino's story graphically featured disturbing footage of a farmer gasping for his last breath after armed men believed to be employed by a local landlord gunned him down. That report touched a chord in every viewer's heart.

"That story was at the intersection of a number of my interests, among which is indigenous people's rights," relates Severino, who has specialized in environmental and conflict reporting.

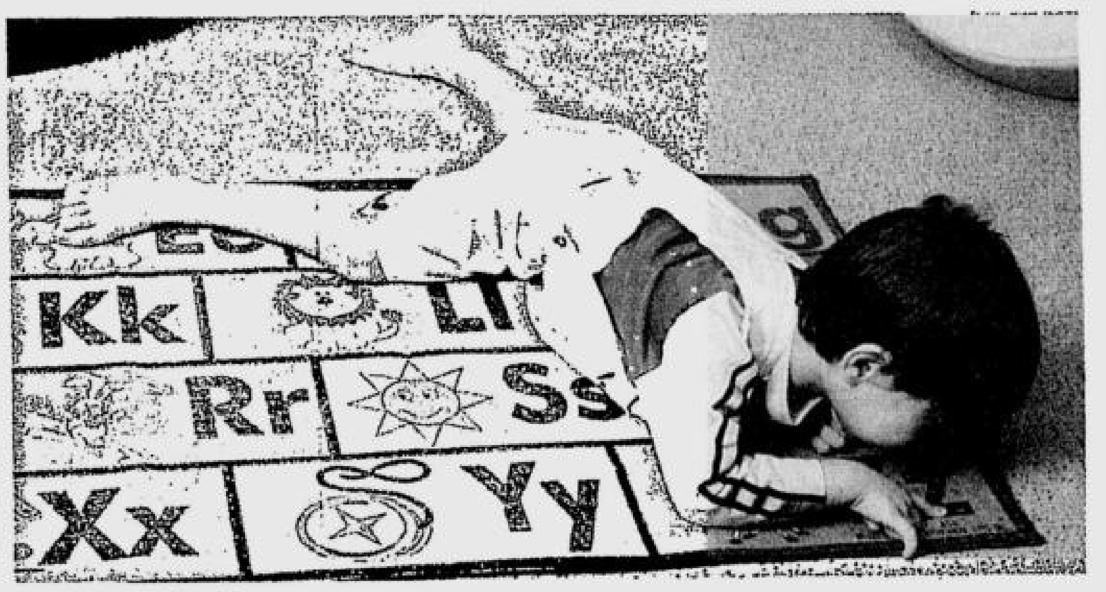
"These people represent what all of us were, before our original cultures were overcome by colonial cultures. I think there's really a need, not just to learn about our indigenous cultures, but to make sure these cultures continue; they can be a key to our future," he postulates.

His fascination for indigenous peoples started when he was still growing up as a young boy in suburban America, where his father, Rodolfo Severino Jr., current Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), was assigned as a diplomat.

Minority

"I spent much of my childhood overseas, where I was a member of the minority. I grew up in America partly during the Vietnam War, when many Asians were regarded as the enemy. I was teased, I was called 'sloped,' which is a derogatory term for Vietnamese. I was called 'chink,'" recalls Severino. Although he generally had a happy childhood, he began to identify with people who were not members of the majority.

"In my class, there were only two people who were not white, and the other guy was my cousin. I was made to feel like an outsider." ***(To be concluded)***


ZASCHA spelling his name.

School for toddlers

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ZASCHA Leon Escudero Spliedt, 2, son of Michael (a German who graduated from De la Salle University, where he met Grace Escudero, his mom), can speak in complete sentences, counts up to 15, recognizes letters and listens to up to four short stories being read in one sitting. He browses through books by himself. He calls his parents Maman and Papu.

Pioneering educators

Zascha comes from a family of pioneering educators. His great-grandmother was trained in India by Dr. Maria Montessori and established the first Montessori school in Karachi. His grandmother Silke (the mother of his dad Michael) was a teacher and Amnesty International Bureau Chief in Germany.

Zascha's parents lost their first-born baby girl, Vindra, to an umbilical cord-coil accident. Pain and grief drove them to research and find avenues for family loss support and education. Then came Zascha who inspired the young parents to passionately learn about childcare, health and development.

Michael and Grace realized other families would also benefit from extra support to cope with challenges in their lives. The tragedy became the catalyst for them to establish the Wunderkind Educational Foundation and Family Room.

Individuality

This school for toddlers is located at 160 Athenaum bldg., De la Costa st., Salcedo Village Makati City. Wunderkind teaches multicultural non-bias in terms of gender, race, creed, age, ability and status, advocating the Reggio Emilia (Italian) approach which recognizes the child's individuality. Children learn through their own experiences and readily apply them to projects.

Howard Gardner, proponent of Multiple Intelligence, writes in "The Hundred Languages of Children," "The Reggio system is one in which each child's intellectual, emotional, social and moral potentials are carefully cultivated and guided. The principal educational vehicle involves youngsters in long-term engrossing projects, which are carried out in a beautiful, healthy, love-filled setting.

Initiative

"In Reggio, the teachers know how to listen to children, how to allow them to take the initiative, and yet know how to guide them in productive ways. Reggio epitomizes, for me, an education that is effective and humane."

For more information, call Michael or Grace at 810-1032 or e-mail wunderkind-@edsamail.com.ph.

The Family Room, on the other hand, advocates the natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of their children, and serves as a real step towards truly integrated child and family educational development.

It provides a venue for programs such as Caregiver Guidance, Prepared Sibling, Breastfeeding, Family Loss, Step-Parent/Child Integration and Adoptive Family Concerns.

ZASCHA inspired his young parents to learn about children, health and development.

MICHAEL and Grace with their two-year-old son.

Richard Gomez romances Regine Velasquez in latest movie

By Edmund L. Sicam

WITH only five days to go before Valentine's Day, love is on everybody's minds, especially when it comes to movies. On the local scene, Viva-Films offers a light romantic story with Regine Velasquez and Richard Gomez in the lead roles.

"Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon" is directed by Yam Laranas, who's not exactly known for light romance stories. His first two movies were a sex drama ("Balahibong Pusa") and a thriller ("Radyo").

Tender moments

Richard says that the movie is in the same mold as the Meg Ryan-Tom Hanks starrer "Sleepless in Seattle." "*Ganoon ka*-light. It's a little romantic, *pero iyung* tender moments are . . ." Richard pauses as he searches for the word. Finding no other word to describe the movie, he says, "tender!" then laughs at himself for being redundant.

Richard thinks that people can readily relate to the story because it's a problem that all people have. "Sometimes we're just insecure about ourselves. *Ganoon ang sinasabi sa* movie," he explains.

In the movie, Regine plays a plain Jane, who works in the Postal Office. Richard is a dashing golf instructor who ends up falling for her. Their love affair starts when after a difficult day at the office, Regine goes to the nearby park and sits at her usual bench where she eats lunch alone. Having no one to pour her frustrations out to, she carves the words "*Malungkot ang buhay ko*" on the bench.

Later that day, Richard finds himself on the same bench after a similarly hard day. He reads her message and feels compelled to answer it with "*Bakit?*"

First time

Although they already met in the past, Richard says this is the first time that he and Regine got to really work together and get to know each other. And how did he find working with Regine? "*Sarap!*" exclaims Richard. "She's a very simple person. *Walang* star complex. 'Let's just go to work!' I think *ganoon talaga dapat ang* attitude."

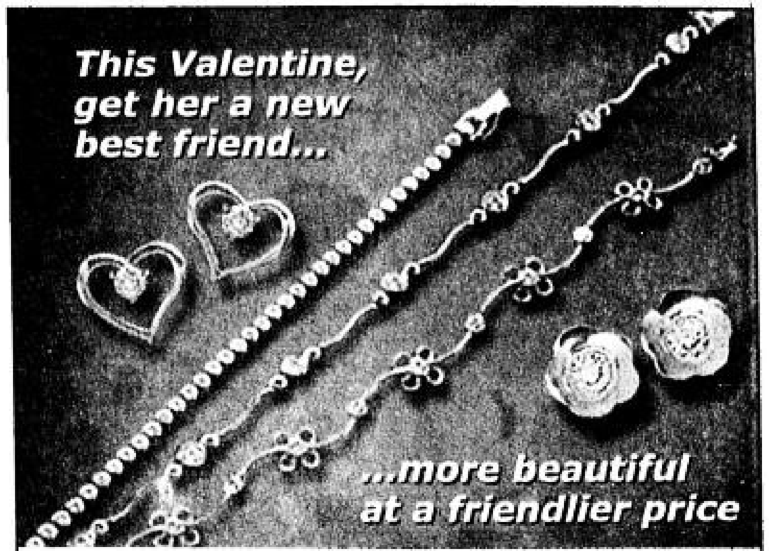
As for working with *direk* Yam Laranas, Richard also raves, "*Sarap!*" Richard reveals that they have already worked together several times in the past—for an Agfa commercial and his anti-drug commercials. "*Magaling!*" Richard praises his director. "*Maganda kasi yung mata niya.* He's a very good cinematographer. Very soft *ang* lighting *niya*."

Yam refuses to shoot his movies at certain times of the day. He usually stops filming during the afternoons because he finds the light very harsh. Hence, they would start shooting very early. Richard discloses that their call time on the set was 7 a.m. sharp, and they always made sure they were there on time.

"*Kaya si* Regine, *umaalis sa bahay nila mga* 5:30, *kasi galing ng* Bulacan!" shares the actor. But their shooting rarely reached into the wee hours of the morning, save for the last few shooting days when they were filming some scenes in the rain.

GOMEZ AND VELASQUEZ. A love story that people can relate to.

RICHARD/ P. E7



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Small film by Joey Reyes wins big

By Ricky T. Gallardo

JOEY Reyes' "Minsan May Isang Puso" may have been pulled out of theaters after its first day of showing last year due to poor box office receipts, but the small film is being vindicated by the awards and nominations it's been getting now that the awards season is on.

Formerly titled "Boyet," this powerful slice-of-life story about the very core of human relationships has already gotten the nod of the elite Young Critics Circle as its best film of the year. The film also won for screenplay, editing, music score and Jaclyn Jose's performance.

Produced by Lily Monteverde's Regal Films, the movie also leads in the Urian race with several major nominations, including those for Ricky Davao, Carlo Aquino, Jacklyn Jose, and Anna Capri in the acting categories.

KYLA. Subtle sentimentality.

Geneva's solo show

One of Geneva Cruz's biggest quandaries is that people do not take her seriously as an artist. She's pretty, eloquent, has maintained her curves after childbirth, and can really sing.

But some say that she emotes too much during her live performances. "She's good but too intense!" Others think that she should learn to connect more with her audience. We think it's never too late, specially for someone like Geneva who's open to constructive criticism and is keen on self-improvement.

To keep her focused, we believe she should concentrate on one field at a time and refrain from getting too involved with scuttlebutt. She should concentrate more on activities that generate long-term benefits.

This Valentine's, Geneva gets her long-deserved solo show, and at the posh Peninsula Manila at that! It's a good opportunity for her to bring out her best as a gifted concert artist and we hope that she'll do well.

Mark Anthony Fernandez, survivor

Poor Mark Anthony Fernandez always finds himself in the center of controversies. It's good there are film projects that help him to refocus. Take for instance his current movie "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo." "Work keeps me sane. I hate being idle, specially with the many trials that come my way."

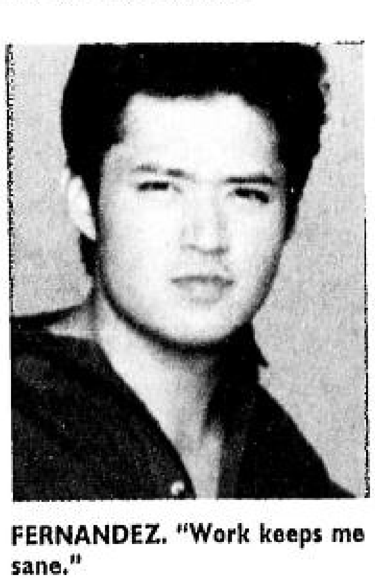
If there is one word to describe him at the moment, Fernandez says, it's his being a survivor. "I just have to move on and not give up!"

Kyla's winning streak

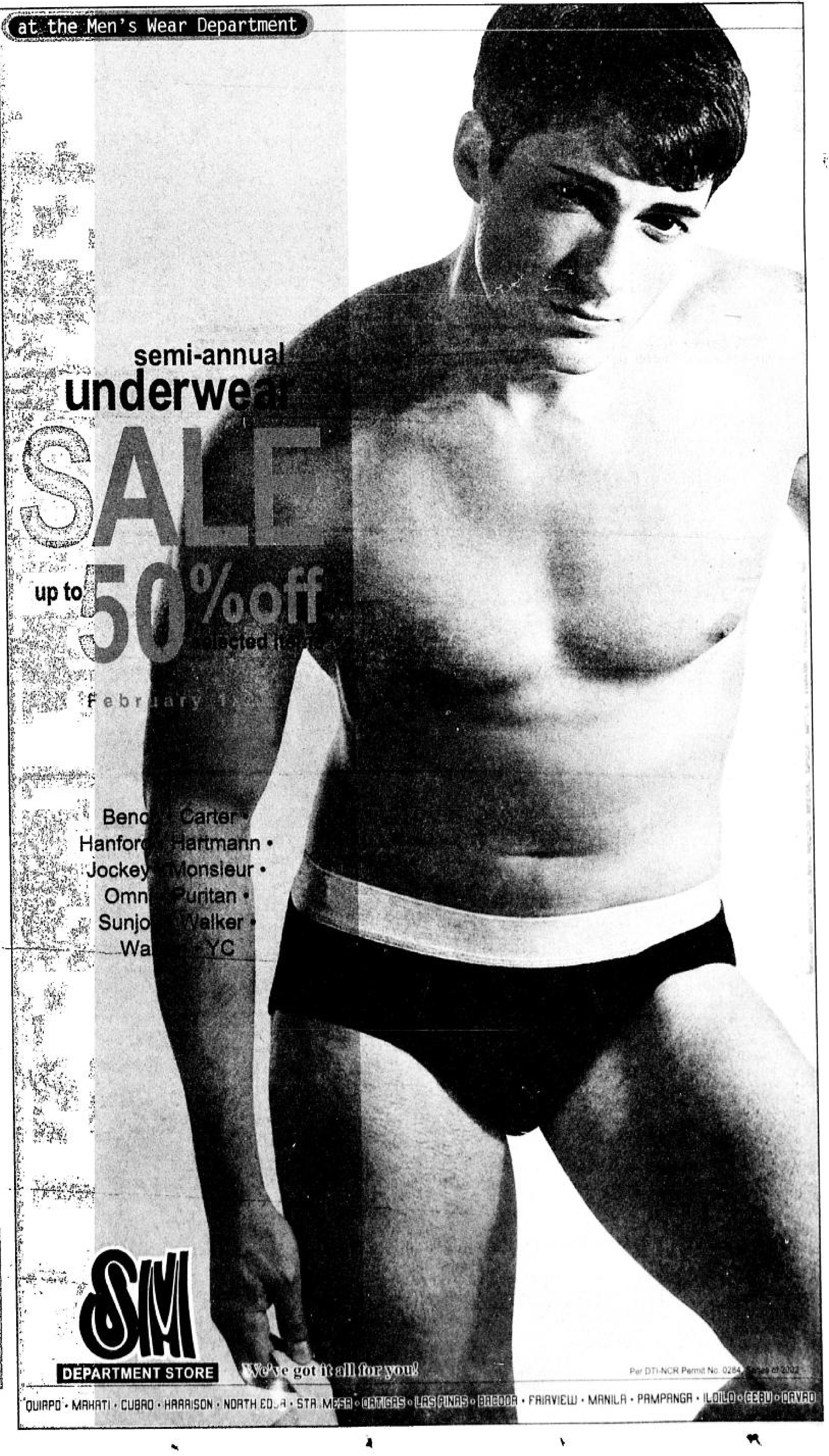
Last year was a good year for Kyla (Melanie Calumpad in real life). After the release of her debut album, "Way to Your Heart," Kyla won both the Best New Artist and the Best Music Video trophies at the MTV Awards. Then she scored three big wins at the Awit.

Her music label immediately gave the go signal to start work on her follow-up album, a self-titled CD that retains Kyla's R&B signature sound.

We've listened to all the tracks and must say that it's a fitting follow-up. We like the subtle sentimentality and melody of the song "I Feel For You." And to top it all, the singer composed two of the songs ("I'm Into You" and "This Day"). Keep it up, girl!



FERNANDEZ. "Work keeps me sane."



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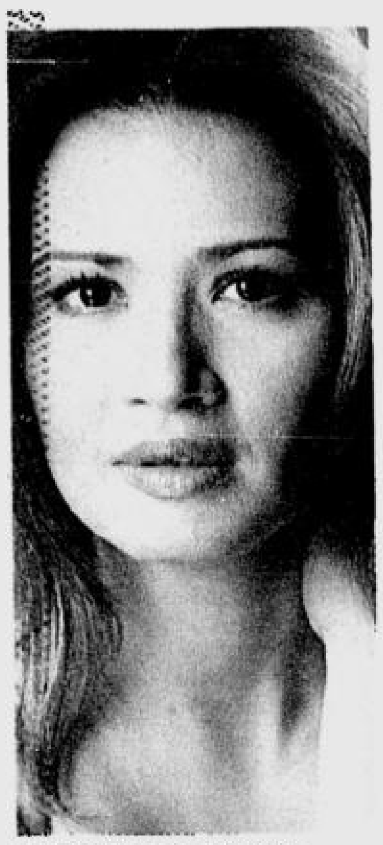
Zsa Zsa Padilla's new album is aptly titled 'In My Life'



PADILLA. Has a lot to be thankful for.

By Jocelyn Valle

"IT was a blur," recalls Zsa Zsa Padilla of her life in the '80s. "I was going through a lot of problems and the only thing that I could control was my weight. I wasn't anorexic because I wasn't too thin for my frame. I just ate too little."

More comfortable

"Now," she adds, laughing, "I can't be too thin. I can fit into size 4 but I'm more comfortable with size 6. I'm lucky that I have good skin. It's not pimply, but I don't like putting much make-up on because I itch. I only pay attention to my looks because of the business I'm in."

"Why are we talking about beauty tips?" she gaily asks, her famous pouting lips forming a huge grin that adds color to her ensemble outfit of brown tank top, beige leather jacket and brown pants.

Until now, the singer-actress, who's been tagged as the Divine Diva because of her poise and sophistication, wonders why people can't believe that she's actually a down-to-earth person.

"At home," Zsa Zsa points out, "I love to be in my pajamas and not brush my hair and watch TV. I'm a cartoon freak. I'm always in jeans, shirts and flat shoes."

Favorite author

She also loves to read (she brought along her copy of Anne Rice's "Merrick," which is just one of the several works of the horror writer that Zsa Zsa has read) and her favorite author is Gabriel Garcia Marquez. But, she admits, she doesn't appreciate poetry and Shakespeare, though she has a few Pablo Neruda books.

And when people come up to her to verify if she was the girl they used to see in the area of San Juan where she grew up, Zsa Zsa proudly says yes.

She also remembers being poor during those times, particularly the days when she, clad in a duster, would walk along N. Domingo st. to buy *pancit* for her siblings. But she knew then that something special was going to happen to her someday.

"Looking back, I feel proud of how far I've come," smiles the former back-up singer of the '80s band Hotdog who shot to fame after the release of her first single, "Kahit Na," in 1983 and its follow-up, "Hiram." Since then, Zsa Zsa has become a sultry songstress who is able to combine feelings and finesse in otherwise maudlin tunes.

She also conquered the silver screen (which is no surprise since she belongs to the famed Padilla clan of actors), bringing to the movies first her sexiness, then her acting talent in meatier roles later on.

She received a couple of best-actress trophies for 1997's "Batang PX." Now she's part of two topraters on TV: "Asap" and "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka."

Live recording

Zsa Zsa's new album for Viva Records, which is a live recording of her recent concert at the Captain's Bar, is therefore aptly titled "In My Life." She's at peace and content with her life, and she's ready to share it with the public.

The opening track ("What The World Needs Now") is, Zsa Zsa says, the first song that she learned to sing. The next is another ditty popularized by Dionne Warwick, "I Say A Little Prayer," and it is given a jazzy treatment, courtesy of musical director Louie Ocampo.

Zsa Zsa turns girlish as she introduces the third cut, the Beegees' "Don't Throw It All Away." "It's for my first crush, Andy Gibbs," she giggles, adding that she used to have a poster of the '70s pop star on the wall of the room that she was sharing with five other siblings.

The subsequent numbers show off Zsa Zsa's versatility as she performs ballads (a medley of Ocampo's hits), rock (Eurhythmics' "Sweet Dreams") and pop ("Time After Time," originally recorded by Cyndi Lauper) with equal passion.

Family

She dedicates the haunting "A Place Called Home" to her family, singling out her firstborn Karylle, who's an aspiring singer herself.

The bouncy tune "You Make Me Feel So Young" is a surprise for Dolphy, her partner since 1989, who is in the audience at the Captain's Bar. The ace comedian, with his usual self-deprecating humor, deadpans that it should have been his song, he being many years older than Zsa Zsa. He then gamely sings a few lines with his lady love.

Barry Manillow's "Sandra" is for another special person in Zsa Zsa's life, her mother. "When I was younger," she recalls, "I used to be ashamed when I was asked about my mom's profession. Unlike the others whose mothers were lawyers or doctors, mine was 'just' a housewife. But I'm proud to have her for my mother, since I've become a mom myself."

After her Barbra Streisand medley, Zsa Zsa belts out a string of love songs—a clear indication of her current state of mind, and caps it off with the Lennon-McCartney collaboration, "In My Life."

Month-long break

"I can't complain. I have so much to be thankful for," Zsa Zsa enthuses, momentarily unbothered by the chronic laryngitis that she's been suffering from since July last year. That's the reason why she won't stage her usual Valentine's Day concert this year. And, starting next week, she'll be taking a month-long break.

Zsa Zsa avers that she didn't feel bitter or depressed when she learned that she had the disease—which, she informs us, is curable by not talking for a long while. "I learn humility every day," she nods, crediting Dolphy for making sure her feet are firmly planted on the ground.

'Love Conquers All' features 'Rent' cast members

By Leia Torre

THE ALBUM "Love Conquers All" is the result of the efforts of the cast members of "Rent" Manila and Singapore to capture the essence of Jonathan Larson's successful musical about life and love. All the songs in the album were chosen for their ability to convey the same values and beliefs that were embodied in "Rent."

Dedication

The story behind the making of "Rent" is one of adversity, dedication, and hard-won and well-deserved success. What makes the story tragic is that its creator, Jonathan Larson, did not live to see the triumph that his life's work has enjoyed.

Nevertheless, the play has accomplished what it meant to do very effectively, and that is to make its audience realize that no day matters as much as today, regrets only serve to make you miss out on life, and love has the power to heal people and relationships that circumstances have torn asunder.

The message of the play is so compelling that many performers who have been a part of its various stagings have been affected by it. The cast of "Rent" Manila and Singapore is no exception.

ALEJANDRO. Featured in three songs in the album

This is why they did not let the fact that they were not permitted to make their own recording of the musical deter them from producing something that would serve as a keepsake for both the fans of the show and the cast members themselves.

The album is composed of 10 songs, the themes of which link together to give a good approximation of the very fabric of "Rent," despite the fact that none of the songs included are from the play itself.

Lyrics

"What Matters Most," sung by Michael de Mesa and Jake Macapagal, has simple accompaniment, allowing the singers' voices to dominate. What should be important to people everywhere is clearly defined in the lyrics. This line sums it up quite nicely: "What matters most is that we loved at all."

"For Just A Moment" is performed by Rachel Alejandro and Calvin Millado. Its lyrics emphasize the elusive quality of love and the bliss that accompanies it.

The instruments that complement the vocals are kept to a minimum in order to make the most out of the song's poignant lines. Blending of the two voices adds texture to this song which would otherwise be deemed too simple, at least in terms of melody.

"Make Your Own Kind Of Music" is performed by Pamela Oei, Brendon Fernandez, Richard Chia, and Asha Edmund from the "Rent" Singapore company.

The song places great importance on being unique, even at the risk of being considered unusual. This song is slightly more upbeat than the preceding ones, and has a catchy rhythm.

The ultimate message is that what's essential is that you express yourself the way you want to, regardless of what other people would prefer.

Medley

The fourth track is a medley of two songs and is entitled "Count On Me/Lean On Me." It is sung by Glory Sicam, Shar Silonga, Trice Gomez, Lana Jalosjos, Joel Trinidad, Carlo Ledesma, Boyd Tinio, and Arnold Reyes. The themes of the two songs that were used are similar in that they both express the promise of unconditional support that friends offer each other.

Many voices are used in this number, and this lends the number added intensity and a sense of solidarity among friends.

"Stand By Me" is performed by JM Rodriguez and Lee Robin Salazar. In this version, the instrumentation has been modified. The song expresses the importance of having someone who believes in you.

"Love Heals" is performed by Bituin Escalante. Jonathan Larson, the creator of "Rent," is also the composer of this song.

The seventh number, "The Rose" is performed by Rachel Alejandro. The song stresses the significance of hope in the face of daunting challenges.

Obstacles

"Coming Out Of The Dark" is sung by Bituin Escalante and Ana Fegi. This is one of the happier songs in the selection, and speaks of love overcoming all obstacles.

"Love Conquers All" is the song from which the album takes its title, and is performed by Martin Nievera and Rachel Alejandro. It was originally sung and recorded by Martin for one of his albums. The accompaniment is kept simple in order to serve as a complement to the vocals.

The last number is a medley, "We're All In This Together/Bring On Tomorrow," that is performed by the entire cast. One of the songs, "Bring On Tomorrow," is from the musical "Fame!" The message: Anything is possible as long as everyone is united.

A fitting finale for an album that seeks to capture the essence of "Rent"—and succeeds.

'E.T.' is 20 years old

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LATEST 20-year-old film to be brought back to movie screens worldwide is Steven Spielberg's seminal early work, "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial."

First screened in 1982, Spielberg's budget movie made big waves when it opened its initial run, because its story about young earthlings who bond with a creature from outer space excited viewers' imagination.

Possibility

More, it warmed their hearts with the possibility of other life forms in the universe living in peace with the people on our blue-green planet.

How will this preciously optimistic message ring in these more jaded times? Will today's viewers still love then five-year-old Drew Barrymore, even if they know that she's now an adult who's gone through a lot of rough and tough spots in her post-childhood existence.

Yes, because "E.T.'s" story is essentially timeless and thus impervious to the slings and arrows of outrageous reality. It shows how a 10-year-old boy befriends a creature from another planet who's been stranded on Earth.

Innocence

What develops is, as a review describes it, "a warm, insightful story of childhood innocence, frustration, courage and love—with a remarkable 'performance' by E.T. The film is an exhilarating experience for young and old alike."

"E.T." was written by Melissa Mathison. John Williams won an Oscar for his soaring score, as did the sound and visual effects team.

The movie is not just inspiring, but exciting to watch as well, because E.T. is forever just about to be found out by some brutish humans, so his young friends and self-appointed protectors have their hands full moving him from place to place. They strive mightily to keep him out of harm's way, until he can somehow contact his planet ("E.T. phone home!") so that he can be rescued and rocketed all the way back home.

Huge hit

"E.T." was such a huge hit in 1982 that it was even officially hailed as "the most successful film of all time," until it was dislodged from that lofty perch in 1993 by another Spielberg movie, "Jurassic Park."

'E.T.' Five-year-old Drew Barrymore shows her affection for her new friend from another world.

A film buff since early childhood, Spielberg made home movies and learned so much on his own that, by age 13, he had already won a contest with a 40-minute war movie, "Escape to Nowhere." Clearly, it was only a matter of time before he would make his mark in the world of professional filmmaking.

With early features like "The Sugarland Express," "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," he swiftly set about to fulfill that promise.

Heartfelt

Another writer recalls: "The success of 'Raiders' was eclipsed by 'E.T.,' which earned $228 M in the States, and an Oscar nomination for Spielberg. Perhaps more than any of his films, this heartfelt science-fiction tale of a little boy's love for an alien creature echoes the inner mind of the director's personality—the eternally wonder-struck, precocious child who would rather go on dreaming than finally grow up."

Of course, Spielberg has made a number of "grown-up" films since then ("The Color Purple," "Schindler's List"). But his ability to focus on the eternal "inner child" in himself remains his unique contribution (along with George Lucas) to mainstream cinema.

Childlike wonder

And the enormous success of his films indicates that there are millions of moviegoers out there who are also fascinated by the ageless world of childlike wonder.

Bonus: Not only will "E.T." be shown again on movie screens this year, but it will also be enhanced with computer-generated images, a digitally-remixed soundtrack and never-before-seen footage, like a scene showing E.T. in a bathtub. All the more reason that viewers should keep an eye out for the return of "E.T., The Extra-terrestrial," whether they're viewing it for the first time, or for the nth time around.

Winona Ryder pleads innocent to four felonies involving shoplifting

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Actress Winona Ryder pleaded innocent to four felony counts of theft, burglary, vandalism and possession of a controlled substance, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said.

Clothing

Ryder, who entered her plea Tuesday, was arrested Dec. 12 for allegedly stealing about $4,800 in clothing from the upscale Saks Fifth Avenue department store in Beverly Hills. Police said she also possessed the painkiller Oxycodone, a morphine derivative, without a prescription.

The 30-year-old actress faces up to three years and eight months in prison if convicted, but could also be sentenced to probation.

Ryder remains free on $20,000 bond. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for March 11.

Beverly Hills police said store security officers saw Ryder remove security tags from several items, place them in her bag and leave the store.

Valid prescription

Her attorney, Mark Geragos, said Ryder was carrying items between store departments and had a valid prescription for the drugs.

Ryder earned Oscar nominations for playing the heroines in the period films "Little Women" and "The Age of Innocence." She also played a drug-abusing, depressed young woman locked in a mental asylum in "Girl, Interrupted" and has starred in "Heathers" and "Edward Scissorhands." *AP*

DESTINY'S CHILD. The R and B singers are shown with one of the two awards they won.

Soul divas top winners at music awards

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—Five young ladies of soul swept the American Music Awards recently, while Michael Jackson received an anti-climactic award for "artist of the century."

Newcomer Alicia Keys, R and B trio Destiny's Child and late singer Aaliyah each won two prizes during the ceremony at the Shrine Auditorium, as did country singer Tim McGraw.

Fitting climax

The tribute to Jackson was meant to provide a fitting climax to the three-hour ceremony. Instead it ended with a fizzle, as Jackson took the stage to a standing ovation, thanked a long list of people, including actor Marlon Brando—"my other father"—and then split.

Instead of performing, he had submitted a newly produced video clip of his 1988 song "Man in the Mirror," but his representatives mysteriously asked event organizers to pull it at the last minute.

Acts who perform on the earlier show generally do not get invited to the more prestigious Grammy Awards in February, putting Jackson in a fix. He had initially backed out of the American Music Awards altogether, prompting show producer Dick Clark to file a $10 million lawsuit against Grammys boss Michael Greene for unfair competition.

Change of heart

In a change of heart, with Green's blessing, Jackson decided to appear at the American Music Awards and bring along the video clip as a compromise. Instead the audience was treated to a video montage of the Gloved One's greatest moments. (Jackson received a solitary Grammy nomination when the lineup was announced last week.)

Country artist Garth Brooks stepped into the fray by telling reporters backstage that the organizers of both events were hurting the music with their perennial feud.

"When you get to the thing where all you're trying to do is eliminate the other then the only thing that suffers is the music and the people that make it. So I would say, Back off. You're nothing without the artists."

Meanwhile Keys, who went into the evening with a leading five nominations, ended up with the prizes for favorite new artist in both the pop/rock and soul/ rhythm and blues categories.

"This has been a fantastic year. This has been an unbelievable year," Keys, 20, told the crowd.

Fans

She thanked her beaming label boss Clive Davis "for seeing the vision," her family "for holding me down through the dark and the light" and "most importantly God and you, the fans."

Propelled by the gospel piano ballad "Fallin," Keys' "Songs In A Minor" was the top-selling album by a rookie artist in 2001, and has sold almost 4.2 million copies to date. The New York native picked up six Grammy nominations when the lineup for that event was announced.

Keys lost the race for favorite female pop/rock artist to Janet Jackson, who accepted her awards via satellite from Tokyo.

Aaliyah, who died in a plane crash in August, bested Keys in two categories: favorite album ("Aaliyah") and favorite female artist, both in the soul/ R and B categories.

Show co-host Sean "P. Diddy" Combs said backstage that Aaliyah's victories were "God's work right there."

McGraw won the prizes for favorite male artist and favorite album ("Set This Circus Down"), both in the country category. But he made three trips to the stage since he accepted a prize on behalf of his absent wife, Faith Hill, who recently had a baby.

Destiny's Child won both categories in which they had been nominated: favorite band duo or group (soul/ R and B), while their album, "Survivor," won the prize for favorite pop/ rock album.

Other winners

Other winners included 'N Sync (favorite pop/ rock album), Sade (favorite adult contemporary artist), Limp Bizkit (favorite alternative music artist), Brooks and Dunn (favorite band, duo or group—country), Nelly (favorite rap/ hip hop artist), Yolanda Adams (favorite contemporary inspirational), Enrique Iglesias (favorite Latin artist) and Nashville trio Trick Pony (favorite new country artist).

Veteran crooner Luther Vandross was named favorite male soul/ R and B artist, the seventh American Music Award of his career.

"I never went away, but I'm glad to be back," said Vandross, whose storied career got a kick-start recently when he signed to J Records, the nascent label that is also home to Keys.

Vandross performed a version of late former Beatle George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord" during a tribute to artists who died in the past year.

The American Music Awards are determined by a survey of about 20,000 record buyers, while the Grammys—which take place in Los Angeles on Feb. 27—are voted on by music industry insiders.

Combs co-hosted the event with actress Jenny McCarthy. Performers included pop siren Britney Spears, veteran pop diva Cher, rockers Lenny Kravitz and Kid Rock, country singer Toby Keith and R and B heartthrob Usher. *Reuters*

Non-celebrity contestants make 'K' more entertaining

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday, we watched the music-oriented game show "K-The P1M Videoke Challenge" on Channel 7, and saw that the new program had completed its introductory episodes featuring celebrity contestants, and was now fielding non-celebrity entrants.

Clueless

This shift turned out to have both negative and positive results. On the minus side, many of the contestants couldn't really carry a tune, and were clueless about the lyrics of many songs. So, it was just a matter of time before they were axed by the show's panel of "executioners."

On the positive side, the "real" people turned out to be more interesting and entertaining than the game show's past celebrity contestants because they had no persona to live up to, no image to protect, and no reputation to buttress with trying-hard jokes.

These non-celebrity contestants came from all walks of life—there was a teacher, and even a cross-dresser in last Sunday's batch ("she" eventually won the episode's final pot).

Desperately nervous

Talk about "reality TV," these contestants were desperately nervous, but even more desperately bent on winning a lot of money. Unfortunately, their nervousness made it difficult for them to do that.

Still, the non-celebrity edition of the game show was more empathetic than its celebrity outings, so we watched last Sunday's show with greater interest than on our first exposure to the program.

When the contestants sang the wrong lyrics, we didn't blame them, because the tension and stress also rattled us at home and made us come up with strange lyrics of our own.

Admiration

And, when a contestant got a lyric right, we were full of admiration because we sensed how tough it must have been for him to think straight in so short a time.

Inadvertent comedy was provided by the way that the contestants' nervousness also told on their singing voices, which suffered a lot as they were concentrating on recalling the right lyrics to a song.

Baritones became sopranos, and sopranos became basses as the contestants *tried* to sing to an unfamiliar minus-one track, and some entrants even ended up just "rapping" a musical line!

With the non-celebrity contestants, the show finally came alive, and was no longer as predictably slick as it used to be.

Caustic ad-libs

To his credit, game show host Arnel Ignacio was able to connect well with the contestants, and they took his caustic ad-libs with grace and humor.

Well, Arnel has had years of "rehearsals" as sing-along master in videoke bars, where he had to deal with a lot of singing starwannabe's who couldn't carry a tune. Now, on "K," he's reaping the rewards of all those years of "training."

IGNACIO. Years of "rehearsals" as sing-along master in videoke bars.

'The Others' tops Spain's Goya film awards

MADRID, Spain—"The Others," starring Nicole Kidman, dominated Spain's Goya Film Awards, taking eight prizes including best film, director and screenplay.

Recognition

Director Alejandro Amenabar, 27, said the award culminated "a long, three-year journey and amounts to recognition for hard work in a country where it is hard to get others to acknowledge you."

The film, called "Los Otros" in Spanish, was a box-office hit in both the United States and Spain. A movie about a haunted house in Britain during World War II, its star Kidman was nominated for the Goya as best actress, but did not win an award at the 16th edition of the Spanish equivalent of the Oscars.

The film's nomination stirred some bad blood in some Spanish film circles amid complaints that it was not really Spanish because it was done in English, although the film was financed with Spanish capital. It was nominated for 15 awards.

Kidman's nomination did not sit well either. Film Director Vicente Aranda, nominated for a Goya for best film for his movie "Juana la Loca" about a 16th-century Spanish queen, refused to attend the ceremony on Saturday night. He said Hollywood already dominated Spanish cinema and nominating Kidman did not help things.

Ceremony

The actress did not attend the ceremony either.

The award for best actress went to Pilar Lopez de Ayala for her interpretation of Juana, the troubled daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel.

The prize for best actor went to Eduard Fernandez for "Fausto 5.0," a psychological thriller about a doctor who specializes in treating the terminally ill and is led on a bizarre sexual adventure when he runs into a former patient at a medical convention. *AP*

KIDMAN. Loses to Spanish actress.

Richard Gomez romances

(From page E5)

One fresh idea used in the film which Richard enjoyed very much was Laranas' treatment of their scenes inside a taxi. Instead of thought balloons, Laranas used subtitles to show what Regine and Richard were thinking.

TV series

This is Richard's first movie in two years. His television series on ABS-CBN, "Your Honor," in which he played a lawyer, was axed recently, and Richard is still hurting. "I feel bad *kasi* the problem is not ratings anymore. We're talking about the financial difficulties of ABS-CBN," laments the actor.

It must have been painful for Richard because he put a lot of time and effort into the show.

The number of legal terms in the scripts made it doubly difficult for him to memorize his lines. Richard says he would have wanted to be a lawyer. "*Kasi ang dami mong alam, ang dami mong naiintindihan! Lalo na dito sa atin,* very important *na may* legal knowledge *ka!*"

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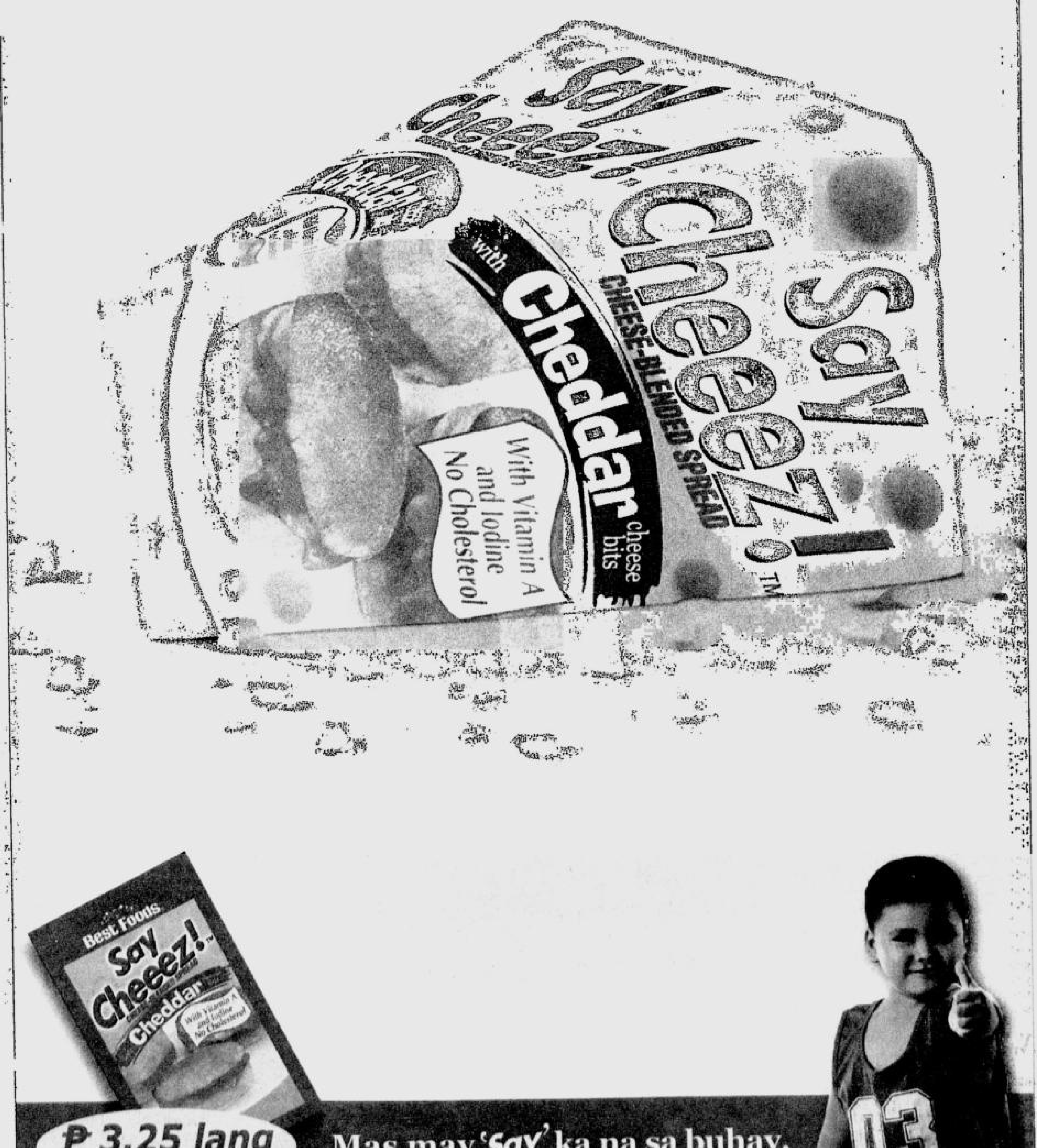

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Weekend movies: Kidman's 'Birthday Girl' and 'Slackers'

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—In case moviegoers hadn't seen enough of Nicole Kidman at recent Hollywood awards shows, she is back in US movie theaters this weekend with the nationwide debut of her latest film, the romantic thriller "Birthday Girl."

This newest Kidman film—her third behind "Moulin Rouge" and "The Others" in about eight months—is one of only two new movies opening across the US.

Action flick

The second is college-age comedy "Slackers" as a lull in big-budget Hollywood movies continues in the face of Sunday's Super Bowl on TV and ahead of Arnold Schwarzenegger's action flick, "Collateral Damage."

Kidman's been making the rounds in Hollywood this past month winning awards for playing nightclub singer Satine in the musical "Moulin Rouge." In keeping with her goal of taking only roles she finds challenging and unusual, most of her dialogue in "Birthday Girl" is Russian. Yes, Russian.

Back in May, when promoting "Moulin Rouge," Kidman admitted to reporters she had taken two parts in the past solely for a sizable paycheck, although she wouldn't name the films. But those days, she said, are over.

Unsatisfying

"Each time, that was so unsatisfying to me, and it just wasn't worth it," she said. "I don't care about the money ... what I care about is, are we attempting to do something unusual and something good."

"Some of it's going to work, some of it isn't going to work, but I like the idea of trying," she said.

In "Birthday Girl," she plays a Russian woman named Nadia who emigrates to England in order to marry a lonely bank teller whom she's "met" through an Internet service.

The teller, John Buckingham (Ben Chaplin), has only had one real love in his life, and no real romance. When Nadia arrives, speaking no English, he wants to send her home, but she seduces him with her good looks, sexy ways in bed and seeming helplessness in a foreign country.

In only eight months, Nicole Kidman has starred in three feature films that have opened to very favorable reviews

Soon, her birthday arrives and on that special day she utters her first English words. Unfortunately, along with those words comes a cousin from Russia and his friend.

That is when the trouble begins for John, however, because their intention is to use Nadia as leverage to force John into robbing his bank. When he does, the four are on the run from the law, and that is when his love for Nadia is truly tested.

SAWA. Plays leader of a ring of cheating students.

Enthusiastic reception

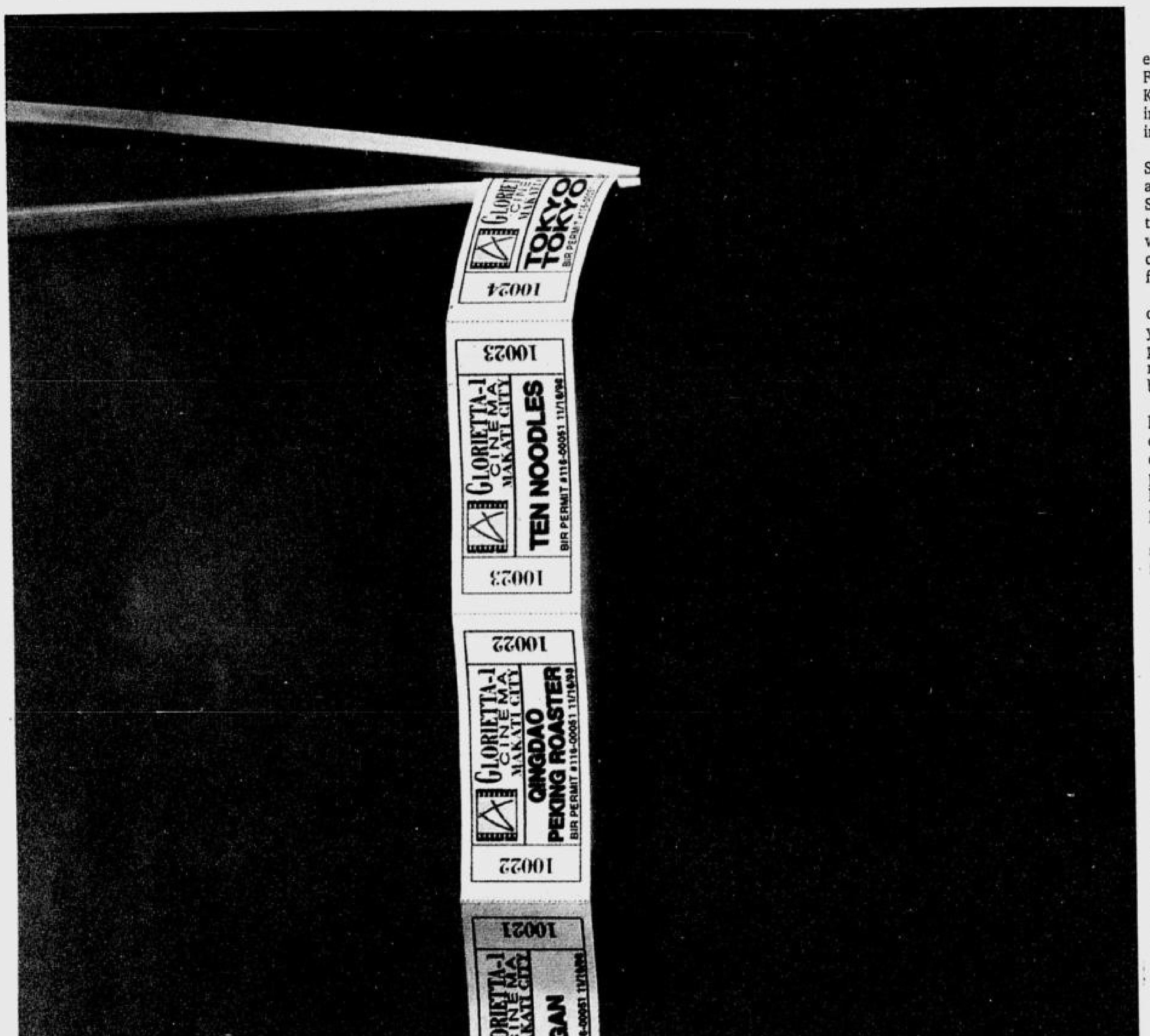
"Birthday Girl" premiered weeks ago to an enthusiastic reception at the Sundance Film Festival, and despite its starpower with Kidman, it really comes more in the vein of an independent film and is being distributed by indie powerhouse, Miramax Films.

In the same way, "Slackers" comes from Sony's specialty film label, Sony Screen Gems, and stars young actors like Jason Schwartzman, Devon Sawa and model-turned-actress James (yes, James) King. It was directed by fashion photographer and commercial director, Dewey Nicks, and is his first feature film.

Sawa portrays the ringleader of a trio of college kids who have floated through the years at Holden University by paying other people to take their tests. Basically, they'd rather drink beer and party than hit the books.

During final exams of their last semester, however, the years of slacking unravel when campus geek "Cool Ethan" (Schwartzman) catches Dave in a scam and threatens to expose his cadre of cheaters unless Dave hooks him up with the brainy and gorgeous Angela, played by King.

Dave says, "sure, dude," but soon finds himself with even deeper problems when he, too, falls for Angela. *Reuters*



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Screen Actors Guild pays tribute to child actors

LOS ANGELES—The Screen Actors Guild will pay tribute to child actors at its awards ceremony next month.

Seven-year-old Dakota Fanning, nominated for best supporting movie actress at the SAG honors, will introduce the child-actor tribute at the group's eighth annual awards show March 10.

The youngest performer ever nominated for a SAG award, Fanning was cited for her role in "I Am Sam" as the daughter of a mentally retarded man (played by Sean Penn) at the center of a custody dispute.

Other young contenders

Other young contenders at the SAG awards included Haley Joel Osment, nominated at age 12 for "The Sixth Sense" in 2000, and Jena Malone, nominated at age 12 for the TV movie "Bastard Out of Carolina" in 1997.

Fanning has several television credits and will next be seen in the kidnapping thriller "24 Hours," due in theaters this fall. *AP*

ACTORS Michelle Pfeiffer, Sean Penn and Dakota Fanning attend the premiere of their new film "I Am Sam."

SATURDAY*Special*

Five stars recall the day they said yes

By Jocelyn Valle

THE ONE scene that never fails to melt a romantic's heart (whether it's Valentine's Day or not): Down on one of his knees, with a dainty box in his hand, he asks his ladylove, "Will you marry me?"

We expect an affirmative reply, of course. But what could she be thinking of at that precise moment? Let's hear it from five of the biz's talented, lovely and married women. This is how they finally said, "Yes, I'll marry you!":

10 years younger

It wasn't love at first sight for **Vilma Santos** when she met Ralph Recto years ago. "*Pero habang tumatagal*," recalls the Star for All Seasons, "I learned *na* he's intelligent *at galing sa magandang pamilya*. He was 10 years younger *pero naisip ko na marami akong matututunan sa kanya*. He was also down-to-earth. *Na-obserbahan ko kung paano siya makipag-usap sa mga* maids *at* drivers. *Nakita kong totoo siya*."

SANTOS. Not love at first sight.

On Aug. 10, 1985, Vi and Ralph went steady. Four years later, he proposed marriage to her. "But I declined," says Vi, "because I felt that I wasn't emotionally ready."

The second time that Ralph asked her to be his lifetime partner in 1992, Vilma readily said yes. Why? "I was with him when he was campaigning for a seat in Congress," she relates. "*At nakita ko kung paano siya makisama sa mga tao*.

"I also realized how much I cared for him. *Hindi ko siguro gagawin para lang kanino 'yung diretso sa* show or shooting *ko, pupunta ako sa* Batangas *para mag*-campaign. I felt that he was really the one."

Grand wedding

The beautiful couple had a grand wedding on Dec. 11, 1992 at the old church in Ralph's hometown, and Vilma, who's now a two-termer mayor of Lipa City, never felt as sure about her decision to marry the dashing Recto scion, who would become a fine senator.

Meanwhile, **Michelle van Eimeren** will never forget the night of May 1, 1995 at the now defunct L'Olivier restaurant in Makati City. She was having dinner with her then boyfriend Ogie Alcasid, and she had no idea that the singer-actor-TV host had a grand plan in his mind.

He arranged for Martin Nievera, who had gone to a wedding that day, to come to the restaurant. "So, after we had our meal," the former beauty queen recounts, "I said, 'I want to have dessert. Can I order? He said, 'No, I already ordered. But I countered, '*E*, what if I don't like it?'

"Then came Martin, singing 'Be My Lady.' And I said, 'Gee, times must be hard for Martin to sing in a restaurant.' *Totoo*! Then he started humming to me. *Teka muna*, something fishy was going on! So I started crying. I felt very emotional.

Plate

"Martin gave the mike to Ogie. *Doon siya dapat magsabi ng* 'Will you marry me?' Pero nag-freeze *siya*! So, *tuloy pa rin ang* singing. Then the waiter came out. He had this plate *na parang* waffle *ang takip niya*. Normally, it's a cake that's underneath. When I lifted it, my engagement ring was there in a box! So I was crying and the people there were clapping, shouting their congratulations."

Why did Michelle say yes to Ogie? "I love him," is her quick reply. "I still love him anything about him *kahit minsan masungit*," she grins. "*Pero* lovable pa *rin*."

Ruby Rodriguez, will always remember how she celebrated her birthday on Jan. 10, 1995. "*Akala ko walang siyang regalo*," she shares, referring to the guy she'd been dating then for a year, graphic designer and restaurant owner Mark Aquino. "Engagement ring *pala ang ibibigay niya sa akin*."

Her reaction? "*Totoo ba yan?*" she replies, chuckling. "Then he told me: 'It may not be today but I will marry you.'" After that, the comedienne-TV host started getting serious with her weight-loss program. "I really wanted to look good on my wedding day," she winks.

Plans

Two years later, the affianced couple began finalizing plans for their altar date: Oct. 20, 1997. True to her word, Ruby looked svelte and radiant in her wedding gown. And though she's gained weight since that momentous day, Ruby has maintained a healthier shape than the first time she came out on TV years ago.

As for **Cookie Chua**, the vocalist of the band Color It Red tells us that since the first time Earl Ignacio started hanging out with her and her friends, the comedian had been asking her to marry him. "*Kahit hindi pa kami noon*," points out Cookie, shaking her head. "*Ewan, baka nagti*-trip *lang siya. Hindi ko nga siya sineseryoso*."

When did she finally take him seriously? "*Nung magkaka*-baby *na kami*!" she laughs, adding that she was then two months pregnant. "*Sige, pakasal na tayo*!"

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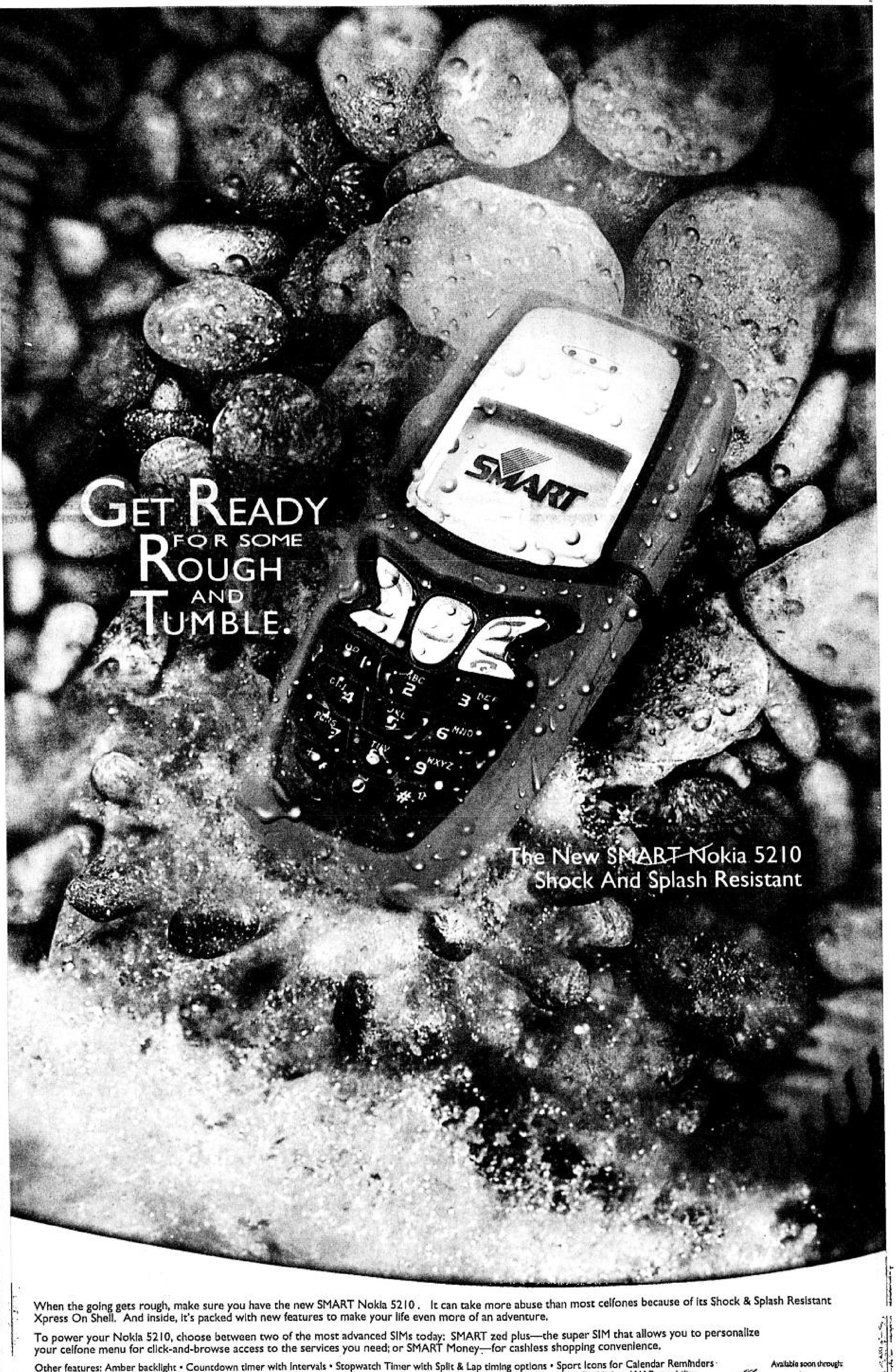
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Family of unhappy geniuses

By Nestor U. Torre

"THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS." Encouraging reviews.

FILM lovers who have seen "Bottle Rocket" (1996) and "Rushmore" (1998) know that their writer-director, Wes Anderson, is a gifted filmmaker with a uniquely comic take on some of life's most traditionally unfunny issues.

Third film

In his third and biggest film, "The Royal Tenenbaums," Anderson zeroes in on of one of the most complex concerns of all: the family.

True to his idiosyncratic bent, Anderson chooses to dramatize the relationship of a particularly complex clan—a family of geniuses.

Royal Tenenbaum and his wife Etheline beget three children before their marriage breaks up: Chas is a top financial whiz, Margot is a much-awarded playwright, and Richie is a tennis champion.

While they are enormously successful, the three siblings lead miserable lives, emotionally speaking, and blame their woes on their father, who has made himself scarce for decades.

Terminal illness

Imagine their discomfiture when Royal suddenly shows up and announces that he has a terminal illness, and wants to ask for his children's forgiveness before he kicks the bucket!

It later turns out that Royal *isn't* dying, but he *is* sick—*heart*sick for the family he's neglected all these years.

At first, of course, his children aren't about to let him off the hook so easily, but they eventually take him back into their hearts, and the act of forgiveness turns out to be a healing one not just for Royal, but also for his heretofore-bitter offspring.

Important

Thus does Anderson's latest film show how important family is in people's lives. As Gene Hackman, who plays Royal, puts it, "Things aren't always going to work out smoothly, but good families keep trying—and the best families keep going, no matter what happens. The families that fall apart are the ones that don't care enough."

Another cast member, Bill Murray (Margot's husband) observes, "The film is about a family that has everything going for it, but still ends up being deeply troubled. It reminds us that a child's love is a very powerful thing. Parents have a responsibility to deal with it very carefully."

Name actors

After co-writing the movie's script with Owen Wilson, Anderson decided to cast name actors even for the smaller roles in the production. His reason: "Because the characters were written as larger-than-life people. I wanted to cast stars who had the necessary presence and force, but who could also function as part of an ensemble."

It wasn't difficult to convince big stars to join the production, because many of them had seen Anderson's first two movies, and had admired them. Also, the script of "The Royal Tenenbaums" offered great roles that no ambitious actor would want to turn down.

Stellar cast

As a result, the movie's stellar cast includes, aside from Hackman and Murray, Anjelica Huston as Etheline, Ben Stiller as Chas, Gwyneth Paltrow as Margot, Luke Wilson (Owen's brother) as Luke, Danny Glover as Henry Sherman (the family accountant and Etheline's suitor), and Owen Wilson as Eli, a Cormack McCarthy knockoff.

All that star value has helped make the movie popular in the States. It's also been getting exceptionally encouraging reviews, which have in turn helped to further boost its audience. This is good news for Anderson, not only because it means greater financial success, but also because many more people can enjoy and benefit from his new film's insights into families—whether they're made up of geniuses, or not!

SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Extra, Extra' celebrates third anniversary

By Edmund L. Sicam

GMA's magazine show "Extra, Extra" celebrates its third year with a week-long schedule of special features starting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. Hosts Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao have worked long and hard to make the program attractive to the choosy viewer. They've done everything—sell sampaguitas, collect trash, help the needy, uncover scandals, find a long-lost loved-one.

The format and the combination seem to have clicked because the network is pulling out all the stops to make the show's fourth year even more exciting for viewers.

Miriam admits that she has changed a lot since she joined the show. She's less inhibited now, more open to expanding her experiences, not shy about meeting new people. At the press con for the show, she proudly brings out a glamour magazine with her on the cover striking a sexy pose. "That's my most daring pictorial, so far," she tells us.

The cover may not rival Assunta De Rossi's calendar but posing seductively and showing her lovely gams is indeed daring for the beauty queen. We kidded her that she should now pose for FHM, which is known for its really sizzling pictorials. Miriam cringes at the thought

Ironically, the pictures GMA distributed to the press are anything but daring. In keeping with her image as a broadcast journalist, she is more sedately dressed, although she is shown flirting with her co-host. So, does she have something going with Paolo now that she has broken up with her boyfriend? "We're just friends" is her show biz answer, but we believe her.

QUIAMBAO AND BEDIONES. A combination that clicks.

'Millionaire' is back

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire," which took a two-month break in December returns to the TV screen tomorrow at 8 p.m. on IBC-13. The show airs 9 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

For the first week, "WW2BAM" will have celebrity guests competing for the P 2 million top prize, with Christopher De Leon resuming his hosting chores. Since February is Love Month, the show has invited celebrity partners.

Tomorrow, the guests are Tonton Gutierrez and Glydel Mercado, Johnny Revilla and Janet Basco, Emil Buencamino and Giselle Sanchez, Ricardo Cepeda and Snooky Serna, and Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragoza.

On Valentine's Day, the contestants are Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama, Tito Molina and Rosanna Roces and Bernard Palanca and Rica Peralejo.

Feb 15 features EJ and Tess Litton, Lance Gokongwei and wife May Joyce, and Dennis Valdes and Tessa Prieto-Valdes. Set to play on Feb 16 are Niño Muhlach and wife Edith, Ian Veneracion and wife Pam, Earl Ignacio and Cookie Chua, Alex Alvarez and Maritoni Fernandez and Tirso Cruz and wife Lyn.

Incidentally, Viva TV's other game show, "The Weakest Link," hosted by Edu Manzano, will now air only three times a week, Mondays to Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Viva says the show has not weakened but with the introduction of new shows, the company has had to find available slots on either IBC-13 or RPN-9, where Viva is a blocktimer.

Viva is excited about its latest program from the same company that produces "WW2BAM and "The Weakest Link." This time, it's not a game show, but the new acquisition will also involve competition.

It's called "Star For A Night" with singer Regine Velasquez as host. It's like any other talent show like "Bagong Kampeon" or "Tawag ng Tanghalan" but unlike other singing competitions, this one adds some special features. After the contestants are chosen, Viva will transform them into real stars, complete with makeover, costumes and even back-up singers and dancers.

When they perform their numbers, they will indeed be stars for a night. There will be a grand finals at the end of the year where the top prize will be—P 1 million, of course.

Other Viva shows coming on IBC 13 are: "Crayon Shin Chan" and "Cyborg Kurochan," two hot animés from Japan; "Natalia," a new telenovela which airs on Feb. 11 at 10 p.m., to be followed by "Por Un Beso" at 10:30 p.m.

VAN EIMEREN. Ogie proposed at a restaurant with Martin Nievera's help.

CHUA. Doesn't remember exactly when the formal engagement happened.

RODRIGUEZ. Her boyfriend proposed marriage on her birthday in 1995.

Five stars recall the day they said yes

(From page F1)

"*Mabait naman siya,*" she says of Earl. "*Na-feel ko na magiging* safe *talaga ako at saka ang magiging* baby *namin* with him. *'Yung* condition *ko kasi, kung babaguhin niya kung ano ako,* especially *'yung pagkanta ko. Sabi niya hindi, kasi nakilala niya ako nang ganito. E, 'di,* OK!

Partner

"*Saan ka naman makakahanap ng* partner *na* super-supportive. *Pinipilit niya nga akong magbihis-bihis. E, dati kasi wala akong pakialam. Siya talaga 'yung,* '*Ano ka ba,* Cookie?' *Mga ganyan.*"

Cookie doesn't remember exactly when the formal engagement happened. "*Parang lokohan lang kasi,*" she says. "*Nag-linuman pa yata kami. Mga* 1999, *hindi ko na matandaan 'yung* month."

She surely knows when she exchanged marital vows in civil rites with Earl: on her birthday, Oct. 17, in 1999. "*Kung paano ko siya gusto, ganun siya nangyari,*" recalls Cookie of her wedding day, which was held in her husband's hometown in Cavite.

"Very informal. *Mga* friends and family members *lang ang* invited. *'Yung* party, *ginawa sa bahay namin sa* Quezon City. *Masaya. Inuman hanggang umaga.*"

Jamie Rivera was in Oman for a concert in 1994, when her boyfriend, who wasn't from show biz, called her long-distance to ask her if she was really determined to get married.

"I was flabbergasted!" the singer-songwriter describes how she reacted upon hearing the magic question. Right away, they set the altar date, but they waited for a year till they finally walked down the aisle on July 22, 1995.

Updates on Billy Crawford and 'The Exorcist' prequel

WANT to know the latest buzz on your favorite stars? Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show Biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"I heard that Billy Joe Crawford will star in the fourth 'Exorcist' movie. Any update on this?"—*Andy Manalo, Cavite City*

Yes, he will. But a lot of things can happen between pre-production casting and the first day of shooting, so let us keep our fingers crossed, and wish Billy Joe well.

As of this writing, it looks like the Fil-Am singer/actor will, indeed, star with Liam Neeson (as the young Fr. Merrin, played by Max Von Sydow in the 1973 horror classic that starred Linda Blair, who won an Oscar nomination for the movie)

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

Heartthrob Ryan Phillippe will play William Francis, according to The Hollywood Reporter last Jan. 27. Reportedly, Crawford will play the young outcast possessed by the Devil in this prequel, which traces Fr. Merrin's first encounter with a demon called Pazuzu (what a name, huh?), in post-World War II Africa, 20 years before the devil possessed Regan (Blair's character).

Alternately called "Exorcist: Dominion" and "Exorcist 4:1," the movie signed on Neeson last September and Phillippe just last month.

This version reportedly has original author William Peter Blatty's blessings (1977's "Exorcist 2:The Heretic" and 1990's "Exorcist 3" did not), though William Wisher Jr. ("Terminator 2") wrote the script, with extensive rewrites by Caleb Carr ("The Alienist").

Originally meant for director Tom McLoughlin ("Friday the 13th, Part 6"), producers Jonathan Zimbert and James G. Robinson (Jim Carrey's "Ace Ventura," Daniel Day Lewis' "The Last of the Mohicans"), CEO of Morgan Creek, opted for the higher-profile 72-year-old John Frankenheimer, director of Robert De Niro's "Ronin," Marlon Brando's "The Island of Dr. Moreau," Ben Afflleck's "Reindeer Games" and the classic, "The Manchurian Candidate."

Frankenheimer won five Emmies as Best Director in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1998. Shooting starts this spring in Africa, Spain, UK and US, with a 2003 playdate.

This may be Billy's first big screen break, but he has slowly been making a name for himself in the recording industry. He recorded the theme song to "Pokemon: The First Movie," and released his eponymous debut album in 1999 to respectable reviews.

He will release his second album, "Ride," in time for the start of the filming of "E 4:1."

CRAWFORD. Nominated as International Now Artist of the Year.

Proof of Billy Joe's rising popularity was his recent nomination, as "International New Artist of the Year," in the third Annual NRJ Music Awards last month, which boasted of about 350,000 voters, in Cannes, France. NRJ is France's top pop radio station. He may have lost to Anastacia, but he was alongside fellow "losers" Usher, Dido and Mary J. Blige.

"My favorites are Vincent Kartheiser and Taylor of the teen pop group, Hanson. Please, please tell me what they are up to these days."—*Leovigilda Tumaneng, Batal, Santiago City*

The lanky, dark-haired Vincent, now 22, who began his acting career with roles in children's features (1994's "Little Big League," "Indian in the Cupboard") and quickly graduated to work in movies with darker themes ("Another Day in Paradise," "Crime and Punishment in Suburbia," a contemporary take on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's classic), made his debut in Christian Slater and Marissa Tomei's "Untamed Heart."

The 5'10" actor earned a Young Artist Award nomination as Leading Young Actor in 1997 for "Alaska," (with Thora Birch) directed by Charlton Heston's son, Fraser.

We have seen copies (not pirated ones) of his recent movies, "The Bad Seed" (starring Luke Wilson) and "Lucky Town" (with Kirsten Dunst), in video stores.

Watch out for him in "The Unsaid" and "Falling Off the Edge," as a twentysomething writer who finds fame and becomes the victim of a stalker. He once dated Rachael Leigh Cook.

On the other hand, Taylor, 18, who rose to fame with his brothers, Isaac, 21, and 18-year-old Zac, when "MMMBop" topped the pop charts, is busy finishing his group's next album (working title: "Album X2"), with the carrier, "Strong Enough to Break."

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Jolina sparkles in new starrer

By Nestor U. Torre

MAGDANGAL. Perky leading lady.

JOLINA Magdangal's new starrer, "Kung Ikaw Ay Isang Panaginip," casts her in the familiar role of a hardworking girl who keeps herself busy from morning till night, making money for her father and kid brother.

Young workaholic

We say familiar, because in real life, Jolina is also a young workaholic.

In the film, Jolina is given a dreamboat in the gigantic person of a male toothpaste model on a huge billboard. The towering figure (Rafael Rosell) isn't even alive, but Jolina dreams of spending the rest of her life with the handsome hunk.

Of course, all of her friends at her aunt's *carinderia* think she's flipped her wig, but Jolina doesn't care. Specially when a good fairy portrayed by the late Nida Blanca (this is her last film) makes it possible for her to join her "boyfriend" behind the billboard.

She learns (this is a fantasy flick, remember) that he's been "sentenced" to his billboard "prison" to punish him for having used his looks to break the hearts of a number of women in the past.

Other beau

Will he be trapped here forever? Yes—unless Jolina can find another young man who will profess his love for her. This other beau will then take Rosell's place on the billboard, and she and her "billboard boyfriend" can love and live forever!

Desperate for this to happen, Jolina finds her willing victim in an MRT train driver (Leandro Muñoz) who's gotten her goat in the past. She leads him on until he is putty in her hands. Just as she's about to come in for the kill, however, his innate goodness touches her, and she can't be as cruel as she first planned to be.

Eventually, everything gets resolved—well, sort of—and Jolina gets over her dream lover, and finds true love in her flesh-and-blood boyfriend. To make everybody happy, the good fairy also gives Rosell another chance to live in the world again, an inveterate heartbreaker no longer.

Bemusing

This movie is light, bemusing and sometimes imaginative and deft, specially when it shows how life is "behind" the billboard, with lookalikes of popular commercial models humorously interacting with Jolina.

But the plotline that makes Jolina deceive an innocent young man to free her dreamboat beau strikes a sour note that compromises her screen character, making her too coldbloodedly cruel for comfort.

Even after she has "repented," her character doesn't fully recover from the sour touch's curdling effect on her charisma as the movie's protagonist.

Leading men

Still, Jolina's acting, singing and dancing talents make her a perky leading lady, and her two young leading men have their hands full trying to keep up with her.

Among the supporting players, the actress who plays Jolina's streetsmart aunt stands out, while John Lapuz tries too hard to be entertainingly madcap as Jolina's best friend.

After a while, the movie's development begins to feel repetitive, but its fantasy effects help keep things visually eventful.

And Nida Blanca's last big-screen performance *is* a treat, despite its relative brevity. She *will* be sorely missed.

A kinder, gentler Russell Crowe

By Ron Dicker

CROWE. Made his TV debut at age six.

RUSSELL Crowe gained 30 pounds to play a tobacco executive in "The Insider." He took on tigers in nothing but a toga in "Gladiator." But recently at the Four Season Hotel, he faced a far greater obstacle: his reputation.

For some actors, a large news conference is a slam-dunk. Just smile, let the quips fly and then figure out what to wear on late-night talk shows.

Barroom brawl

For Crowe, fielding queries for 30 minutes about his new movie. "A Beautiful Mind," probably ranked somewhere up there with slogging through the hundreds of scripts he says he read.

In the past, he has told reporters their questions were stupid or refused to answer them. He has given the finger to a fan. He has been accused of starting a barroom brawl. A recent Wall Street Journal article asserted that his handlers have begged him to clean up his act.

A friendlier Crowe showed up for this occasion. He stifled his contentiousness with a bite of tongue and took heavy drags on cigarettes, which he lighted one after the other.

Earnest

He was earnest in discussing the Academy Award-hyped "A Beautiful Mind," which has him playing the mathematics genius "John Forbes Nash Jr., who won the Nobel Prize in economics after decades of wrestling with paranoid schizophrenia. Crowe made clear that the movie was not a medical statement, and that he was attracted to it because it combined a man conquering his demons with a love story.

The 37-year-old actor dismissed a question about moments he felt insane, explaining that an answer would trivialize Nash's illness. "I know where you're going, " the actor said. "Next!"

Crowe, born in Wellington, New Zealand, raised in Sydney, Australia, gained attention in Hollywood for his smoldering but honorable cop in "LA Confidential" (1997). He received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of the real life Jeff Wigand, who blew the whistle on the cigarette industry in "The Insider" (1999). Last spring, Crowe won the best actor Oscar for playing a fallen Roman general in "Gladiator."

For "A Beautiful Mind," Crowe immersed himself in Nash's character without imitating him. Nash was working on groundbreaking economic theory in the 1950s when he became delusional. He won the Nobel Prize in 1994.

Crowe had little photo and documentation of Nash to work with and decades of medication have taken its toll on Nash's memory. The performance had to be interpretative, although Crowe did add a few lifelike touches.

Blackboard

For instance, he grew his fingernails long to make his stubby hands move with the grace of Nash's along a blackboard. The two had yet to meet when Nash, now in his 70s, showed up on the set in Princeton, New Jersey.

"I asked him if he wanted coffee or tea and 15 minutes later I got somewhere near an answer," Crowe said. "Such is the level of examination he'll place on everything."

The subject of the press gathering turned to Crowe's youth. His mom and dad were caterers on movie sets and Crowe said he knew early on he wanted to explore performance. He made his television debut at age six, but he did not act in a feature film until age 25.

His first appearance in American movie was in a 1995 Western with Sharon Stone, "The Quick and the Dead." Since then, he has earned accolades for his intensity onscreen and brickbats for his boorishness off.

"He says what's on his mind, and he can be gruff," said Ron Howard, the director of "A Beautiful Mind."

Womanizer

Crowe also has a reputation as a womanizer. Oscar host Steve Martin made a joke about it during the ceremony and Crowe glared at him. Nobody would broach that subject during the interview. Why ruin a good time?

Crowe's next role will be boxing champion Jim Braddock in "Cinderella Man." He made his debut as a documentary maker and subject at the Sundance Film festival.

He put together a video of himself and his rock band, 30-Odd Foot of Grunts, playing and hanging out in Austin, Texas, and showed it to Miramax chief Harvey Weinstein and Talk editor Tina Brown. Both enjoyed it and Weinstein bought it. "It's very raw, very rude and it puts me in an incredibly bad light," Crowe said.

There's something about Cameron Diaz

FEW can dispute Cameron Diaz's winning and impressive filmography: it reflects both small and independent films and large studio projects.

Bedraggled homemaker

She essayed very different and distinct roles that mirror her range as an actress—as one of the three "heavenly" detectives in "Charlie's Angels," as a headstrong and marriage-obsessive bride in "Very Bad Things" and as bedraggled homemaker in "Being John Malkovich."

Finally, in a show of her talents behind the scenes, Diaz contributed her voice to the DreamWorks animated hit feature, "Shrek," along with Eddie Murphy, John Lithgow and Mike Myers.

Recently, the versatile actress was conferred the Best Supporting Actress Award by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association as well as a Golden Globe nomination for her solid work in Cameron Crowe's "Vanilla Sky."

Playing Julie Gianni—a vulnerable woman despite her outward assurance and allure—Diaz says of her role: "She is a good-time girl, the one who always knows how to make people, especially guys, feel comfortable without any pressure. Diaz explains that she was drawn to the role because Julie not only has a unique personality, but she is also someone with whom many woman can relate. "She's 27 years old, she's not in a committed relationship, and her career is in transition," Diaz says.

Benefits

Diaz not only reaped the benefits of Crowe's insightful direction, she also received an additional gift from him in the form of a theme song for her character. "Julie is making a transition in her career from model to singer, and she's cut an album," Diaz explains. "So she's got this CD that she shuffles around town, trying to get people interested in her music. Her songs are inspired by her life, and the song we hear is called "I Fall Apart." Well, Cameron Crowe is married to Nancy Wilson and at one point he told me: 'We have this song we'd like you to sing. Actually, Nancy has been working on it, and she wants to come in to sing it for you, to find out what you think about it.'. I thought, Nancy Wilson wants *my* opinion? I was completely stunned."

Diaz and Wilson later recorded "I Fall Apart" and Diaz said that the experience was really cool. "Of course, they had to add some of Nancy's voice over mine, but I'm still totally delighted."

Becoming truly healthy and free

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

MANY of us have experienced waiting in line and watching the person who is supposed to serve us taking his sweet time, chatting with another employee.

Talking endlessly about trivial and nonsensical matters has become a national pastime even during work.

Tongue

In the Vedic literatures, it is written that a person can become a master of his senses if he first controls his tongue. The tongue, stomach and genitals come in a straight line and if you learn how to control the tongue, you can proceed to gain control of the stomach and genitals.

Two of the main activities of the tongue are speaking and eating. If the tongue is undisciplined, it will not only eat junk food but it will also speak junk ideas. Garbage and toxins may be consumed using the tongue, and this leads to ill health and disease. The tongue is thrilled to experience all sorts of sweet and exotic tastes without considering their effects on the body.

Similarly, it will also speak all sorts of gossip and pollute the consciousness not only of the audience but also of the speaker himself. Garbage in, garbage out—garbage dump!

Sense objects

When a person is controlled by his tongue and stomach, it is easy for him to succumb to sex diseases. When the senses command, he obeys. He is a lover of food, wine and women. He is not only controlled by his senses, but also by sense objects.

For example, he is not only controlled by his sex organs, he is also controlled by his wife and mistresses. He is not only controlled by his tongue, but he is also under the influence and control of alcohol, of food, its manufacturers and advertisers, etc.

A slave is easily defeated. A slave of the senses is especially pitiful because the senses endlessly crave for everything, even if it results in obesity, diabetes, gonorrhea, AIDS, and death.

A slave must understand his sad condition before he can aspire for liberation. Such freedom is achieved by the process of yoga, or union with the Supreme. If the senses are engaged in the service of the Absolute Whole, then they will be pacified and controlled.

A person who learns genuine nutrition and health can serve God and others with his body. True health is achieved only through wisdom and self-realization.

Be smart, he healthy, be happy, be free. Only when we are liberated from our enslaved condition can we truly work, serve and be called a free and progressive people.

Updates on Billy Crawford . . .

(From page F3)

They surprised their fans when they guested last month in an episode of Melissa Joan Hart's "Sabrina, The Teenage Witch," performing a brand new song, "Hey."

But only Isaac did a little bit of acting, as the ex-boyfriend of Roxie (Soleil Moon Frye). He surprised her with an impromptu song with his brothers at a soup kitchen where she worked.

They will also do cameos in the movie, "Frank McClusky, CI," this April, and in Pauly Shore's "You'll Never Wiez in This Town Again" (yes, that's the title.) Go check out the art-house hit, "Being John Malkovich," for another cameo.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB. 9 – FEB. 15

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	El 31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Final Drive 6:30 Auto Review 7:00 Barcelona Battle of the Gold Medalists 9:00 Fox News 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Auto Focus 12:00 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *An Affair To Remember*	5:30 Pokemon 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Hugis, Hubog at Himig* 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Cybill Shepherd* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El Special *2002 Critics' Choice Awards* 11:00 David Letterman
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 NBA 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Rob Roy* 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where In Time is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *I Love You Don't Touch Me* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Small town X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 El True Hollywood Story *Margaux Hemingway* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Lauren Hutton* 9:00 FYE *100 Years of Disney* 10:00 In Focus *Surfer Chronicles* 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Fox News 10:30 Unlimited Diving 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Vegas Weddings* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Great Barrier Reef*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Oka Tokat 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 The Extremist	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Olivia Newton John* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Gwyneth Paltrow*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Attagirl 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *New Zealand*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 NBA 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kasangga 10:00 Sa Dako Pa Roon 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 48 Hours	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:20 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:30 David Letterman 11:00 Movies on El *Two for the Road*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 [illegible]	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Concert at the Park 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *[illegible]*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 [illegible]	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 Largo 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *[illegible]*	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 On Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Outback* 12:00 Talk Soup

Alma and Joey

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

FOR me, the biggest non-news of the year is the separation of Alma Moreno and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez. A lot of people are wondering why they called it quits, but I can't say I'm surprised. In fact, I can't understand all the fuss. From where I sit, there must really be a dearth in show biz news, hence the split of this couple is deemed headline material.

Old news

Let's stop the charades, guys. The Alma-Joey break-up is old news. The newsy part of all of this is that it happened only now. Everybody knows that fidelity is not really the strongest suit of both parties.

I can't claim to know much about Joey but I knew Alma since her humble sh biz beginnings. She was presented to direct from the queen city of Cebu and the first time I set eyes on her, I immediately saw that her dusky, innocent sensuality would be the undoing of a lot of men. She was barely 15 then, but her physical assets had developed much sooner than the rest of her—which should explain the intriguing but stunning combination of childlike vulnerability and raw sexiness she evoked.

And Ness had this quality that made people want to help her. Which worked on me at the time. I remember, I brought her to Tony Galvez to trim and tame her wild, bushy eyebrows. And I badgered my sister Letty, then editor of Panorama, to feature her on the cover of the then No. 1 Sunday magazine supplement.

Serious look

To humor me, Letty did put Alma on the cover of Panorama, but with Jun Polistico, then the hottest and sexiest crooner this side of tin pan alley. That cover made important people take a serious look at this nymph—and the rest, as they say, is history.

I now smile as I recall one of my assistants at the time telling Mommy Jean, *"Baka pag sumikat na si Ness, kalimutan na niya kami, ha?"* Alma's mother gravely replied, *"Ay, hindi. Hinding-hindi namin kayo makalilimutan, lalung-lalo na si* Ate Luds." Famous last words.

Then came "Eva Fonda, 16," the film that catapulted Ness to dizzying heights. And, like an eagle, she learned to spread her wings and soar higher and higher into the show biz firmament. I was very happy for her.

And she is a survivor. Through all the devastatingly wrong choices and decisions she made along the way, she always managed to bounce back, head held up high, daring the world to take her back into its bosom, and reclaiming the niche that was hers and hers alone. A lot of wannabes tried to wrench it away from her, but they simply weren't worthy.

Town fiesta

Part of the Alma Moreno legend was how she effortlessly mangled the King's language. Like, she went to a town fiesta up North. Onstage, she reportedly acknowledged the presence of the lady governor by calling her "Governess."

Told that her parties lacked the proper ambience, the next time she hosted one, she asked around where she could buy ambience. Superstar Nora Aunor was tardy when she guested on "Loveli-Ness." The very peeved Alma introduced her as "The late Nora Aunor."

Leroy Salvador's condolence wreath sent to the wake for her father read: Deepest Sympathies from the Salvador Clan. Ness reportedly whispered to Lolit Solis, "Clan *pala ang apelyido ni Direk* Leroy."

I've always considered Alma special. Once, I even put her name on my short list of friends in show biz. Not that I now regret having done that. It's just sad to realize that, sometimes, good things in life do end.

Like show biz friends. Some are like the sun—they blaze and give light to your life. Some are like the moon—you are their sun and they reflect your light quietly but magnificently.

But there are those who are like comets. They come and they dazzle you, joyously blinding you with their glittering rainbow of light. Enjoy them while they last, but don't expect them to be there forever.

Feisty

I still can't help but laugh and shake my head whenever I recall the time that Alma refused to be interviewed by me. The issue then was the desire of Artemio Marquez, her father in-law, to see his son Joey. Temyong's statements when I interviewed him were quite feisty, dipped in emotional acid. But to be fair to Joey and Alma, I sought them out for them to properly respond.

I confess that, while on the road, I felt that it could be an awkward situation. But, as I always did in all my interviews, I made sure I had an appointment with Alma before I went all the way from my office in Cubao, Quezon City to her house in Parañaque. It was to my utter surprise, therefore, that she refused to be interviewed. Virgie Balatico, the reporter who arranged the interview, pleaded with her.

Script

I really don't know what happened next because I was in my car at the time—but, days later, Virgie slapped a physical injuries case against Alma, who in turn slapped Virgie back with an oral defamation charge. If this were the script of a soap opera, I'd have immediately reprimanded the writer for a job badly done.

I never tried to talk with Alma again after that. I just read in the papers that she went through a series of adversities, like, her much-publicized back problems. There was one report that said she was dying. But then, the next item I read about her was a press release about her terpsichorean performance in a pub she owned.

Then, there were my godson Mark Anthony Fernandez's travails that must surely have stabbed his mother's heart. And there was that freak accident that almost claimed the life of Vandolph, as it did that of his girlfriend.

And now, this. The headlines harped on the same refrain: Alma-Joey split up. And there was that sidebar about their separation being a plus factor for their respective political careers. I mean, gimme a break!

Can't we leave them alone for a while? Can't we, for once, just cease being the vultures that we are, swooping down on the carcasses of other people's lives and tearing at the morsels of their misfortunes?

Meanwhile, the last thing we read, Alma is going back to show biz. Yeah?

JOEY AND ALMA. Together no longer.

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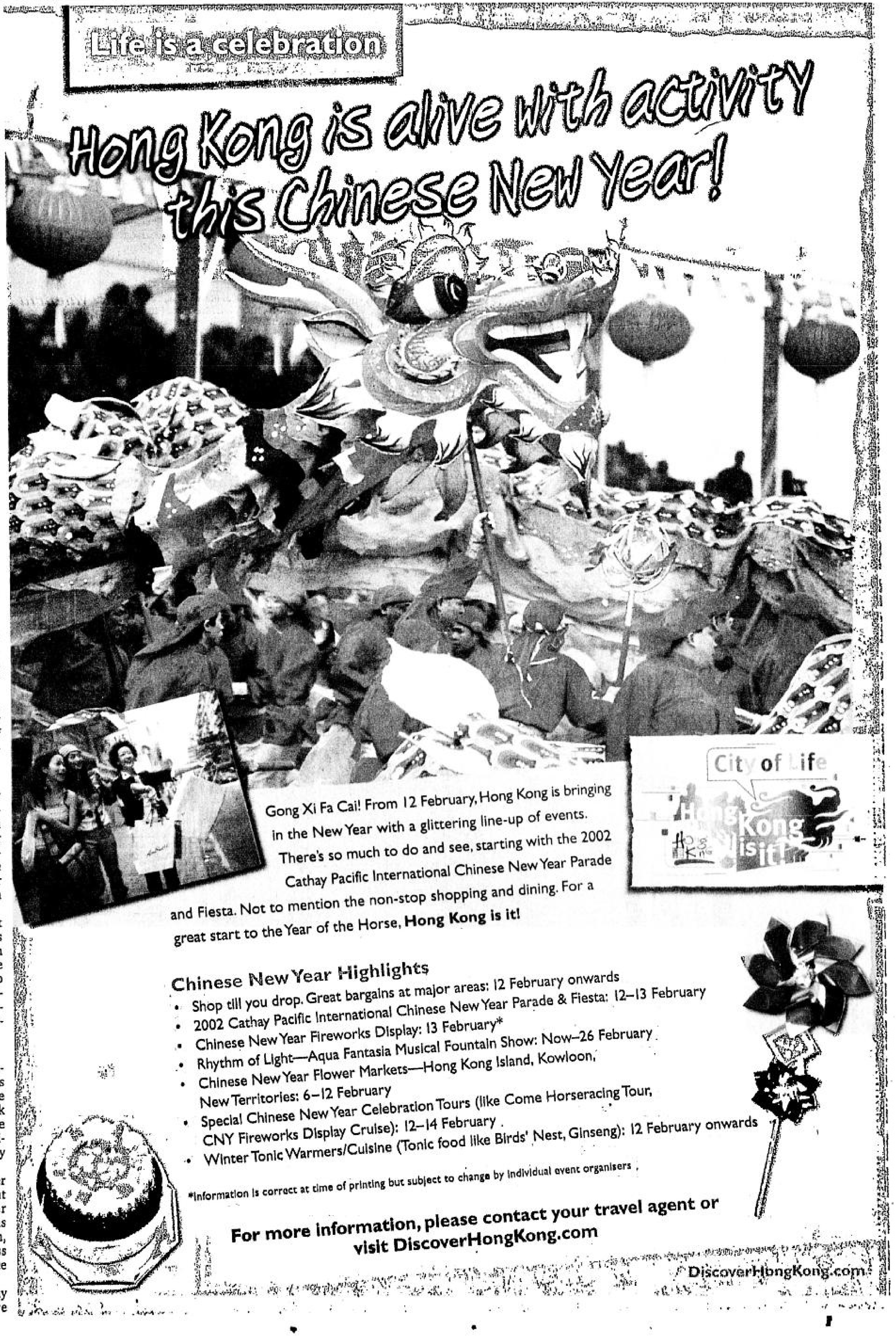


Gong Xi Fa Cai! From 12 February, Hong Kong is bringing in the New Year with a glittering line-up of events. There's so much to do and see, starting with the 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade and Fiesta. Not to mention the non-stop shopping and dining. For a great start to the Year of the Horse, **Hong Kong is it!**

Chinese New Year Highlights
- Shop till you drop. Great bargains at major areas: 12 February onwards
- 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade & Fiesta: 12–13 February
- Chinese New Year Fireworks Display: 13 February*
- Rhythm of Light—Aqua Fantasia Musical Fountain Show: Now–26 February
- Chinese New Year Flower Markets—Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories: 6–12 February
- Special Chinese New Year Celebration Tours (like Come Horseracing Tour, CNY Fireworks Display Cruise): 12–14 February
- Winter Tonic Warmers/Cuisine (Tonic food like Birds' Nest, Ginseng): 12 February onwards

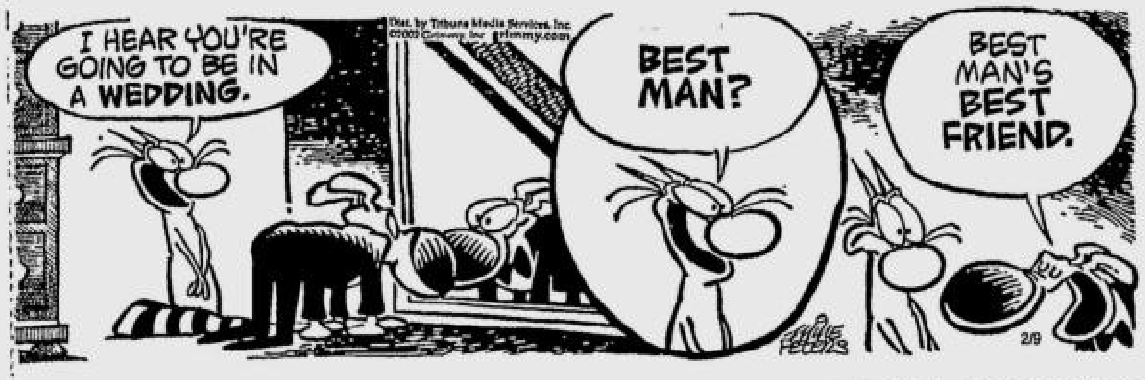
*Information is correct at time of printing but subject to change by individual event organisers

For more information, please contact your travel agent or visit DiscoverHongKong.com

DiscoverHongKong.com

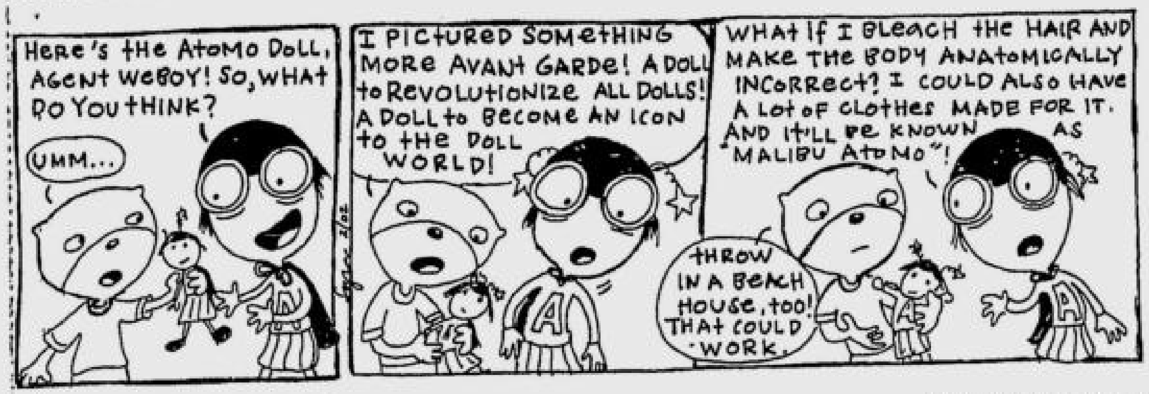
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN A WEDDING.
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
BEST MAN?
BEST MAN'S BEST FRIEND.
2/9

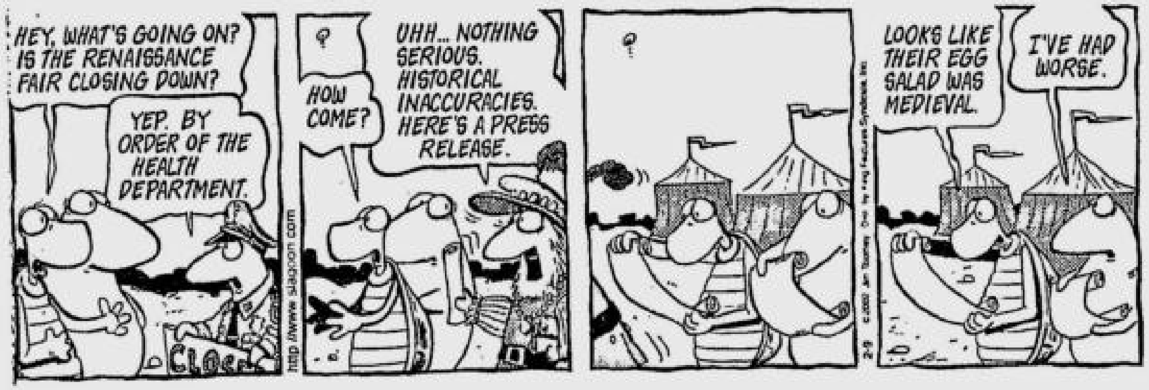
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Here's the Atomo Doll, Agent Weboy! So, what do you think?
UMM...
I pictured something more Avant Garde! A doll to revolutionize all dolls! A doll to become an icon to the doll world!
What if I bleach the hair and make the body anatomically incorrect? I could also have a lot of clothes made for it. And it'll be known as "Malibu Atomo"!
Throw in a beach house, too! That could work.

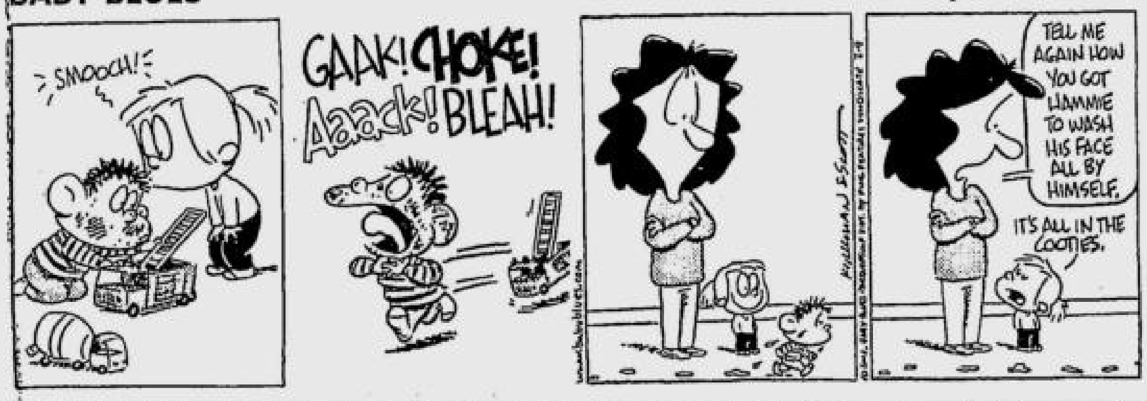
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THE RENAISSANCE FAIR CLOSING DOWN?
YEP. BY ORDER OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
CLOSED
http://www.slagoon.com
?
HOW COME?
UHH... NOTHING SERIOUS. HISTORICAL INACCURACIES. HERE'S A PRESS RELEASE.
?
LOOKS LIKE THEIR EGG SALAD WAS MEDIEVAL.
I'VE HAD WORSE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SMOOCH!
GAAK! CHOKE! Aaack! BLEAH!
TELL ME AGAIN HOW YOU GOT HAMMIE TO WASH HIS FACE ALL BY HIMSELF.
IT'S ALL IN THE COOTIES.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Farrow, Travis Tritt, Charles Shaughnessy

Happy Birthday: You will experience favorable changes with your educational pursuits, travel, or within friendships this year. You will get involved in worthwhile groups and enjoy the mental stimulation others can provide. You are likely to make the necessary changes that will allow you to follow your dreams. Your numbers are 4, 11, 15, 28, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will overreact to everything going on around you at a personal level. Don't take others for granted or promise more than you can deliver.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your eyes and ears open. You will pick up some valuable information if you spend time with an older relative who has the same interests as you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Minor ailments will slow you down if you aren't careful. You should be able to make some important financial moves, however, don't spend what you don't have.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be emotional today. Partnerships can be great if you are affectionate and positive. Don't pretend to be what you're not.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be questioning your professional position. If you are having problems with co-workers, it is best to think about the reason that this is happening. It may be just as much your fault.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will feel the urge to do something important. Travel should be on your agenda. Romance will be very enticing but may lead you into a union that is limiting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional deception will cause problems with someone you care about. You can expect sorrow to evolve from the information you discover. Be honest with yourself and face the music head-on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take your time and you can please everyone around you. Your desire to do something that will enhance the lives of those around you will pay off. You can make a difference if you are sincere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let anyone take advantage of you financially. Don't flaunt what you've got. Keeping a low profile will help you in the long run.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Think about what it is you want to do. Don't make rash decisions. You will be emotional regarding your present relationship.

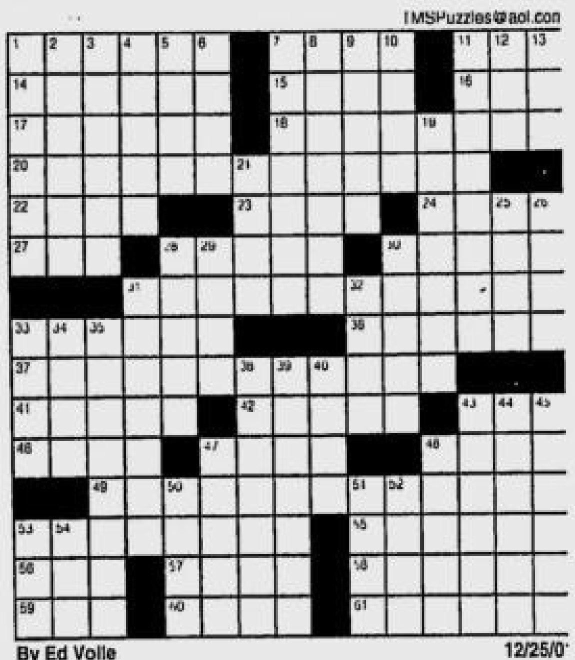
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you know may not be telling you everything you need to know. Do a little research on your own but don't get involved in secret matters even if you do find them intriguing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your intuition will lead you in the right direction, so follow your heart and do what comes naturally. Your ideas will be well planned and easily instigated.

Birthday Baby: Your sparkling manner draws people toward you. You follow your heart and your own rules. You dislike possessiveness, and prefer to spend time with people who can challenge your mind.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.con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By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

12/25/0

ACROSS
1 Wife
7 Humane org.
11 Chinese frying pan
14 Italian Adriatic seaport
15 Cut off
16 __ polloi
17 Danzig
18 H.S. student's base
20 Reed of the season?
22 Hot pair in poker
23 Art Deco designer
24 Ward of "Sisters"
27 Inhabitant: abbr.
28 Fad
30 Respectful Hindu title
31 Coward of the season?
33 Guitarist Segovia
36 Language
37 First lady of the season?
41 Oil or vinegar bottle
42 Overdo the drama
43 Response time
46 Glasgow toppers
47 & others
48 Central part
49 Hunter of the season?
53 Oceans
55 Oceans
56 One Gershwin
57 Feudal serf
58 Author of "The End of the Affair"
59 Destiny
60 Last of a team?
61 More down

DOWN
1 Hungarian
2 Persuade
3 Bass coat?
4 Loudness units
5 Part of MIT
6 H.H. Munro's pen name
7 Movements in 3/4 time
8 Gamble's corporate partner
9 Comet heads
10 Copycat
11 Unreservedly
12 Perfect-game box score
13 Kipling book
19 "Seven Year Ache" singer Cash
21 Not listening
25 Stead
26 Ready and willing partner?
28 Treasure container
29 Remainder
30 Potbelly, e.g.
31 Dons for fit
32 Editor's notation
33 $ in the bank
34 Racing org
35 Flam or tattoo
38 Constituent of natural gas
39 Hoarder
40 Alone
43 Lounged around
44 Dahl or Francis
45 Yellowstone sight
47 Excrete
48 Encrypted
50 Various functions
51 Obscuring hazes
52 Folk dance
53 Slick stuff
54 In favor of

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	H	Y	M	E	■	A	D	L	I	B	■	E	L	L
E	A	V	E	S	■	L	E	E	R	Y	■	V	E	E
E	V	E	L	K	N	I	E	V	E	L	■	E	V	A
L	E	S	L	I	E	■	P	I	N	I	O	N	E	D
■	■	■	O	M	S	K	■	S	I	N	U	S	E	S
C	O	N	N	O	T	E	D	■	C	E	N	T	■	■
A	P	E	■	S	L	E	E	T	■	S	C	E	N	E
R	A	V	E	■	E	L	M	O	S	■	E	V	I	L
S	H	E	L	F	■	S	U	N	U	P	■	E	L	S
■	■	R	I	O	S	■	R	E	T	U	R	N	E	E
I	G	N	O	R	E	S	■	D	U	P	E	■	■	■
T	E	E	T	E	R	E	D	■	R	I	V	E	R	A
E	N	V	■	S	E	V	E	N	E	L	E	V	E	N
M	O	E	■	E	N	E	M	Y	■	A	R	E	N	A
S	A	R	■	E	E	R	I	E	■	R	E	S	E	T

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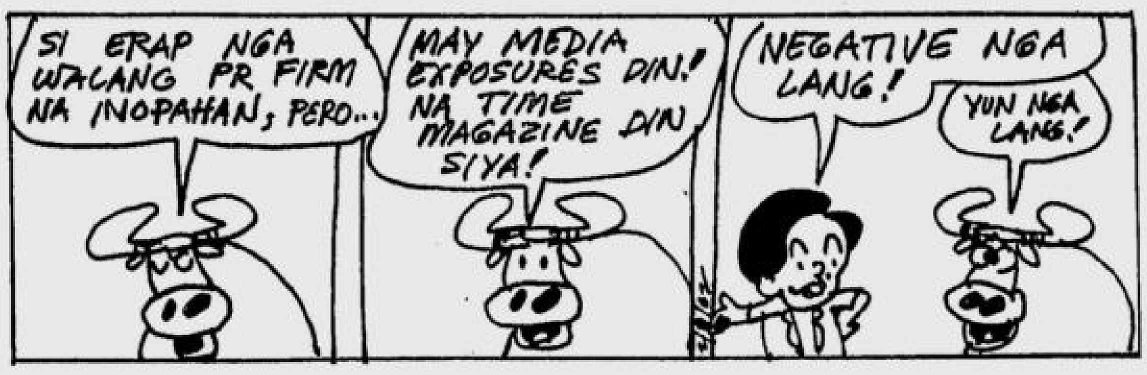
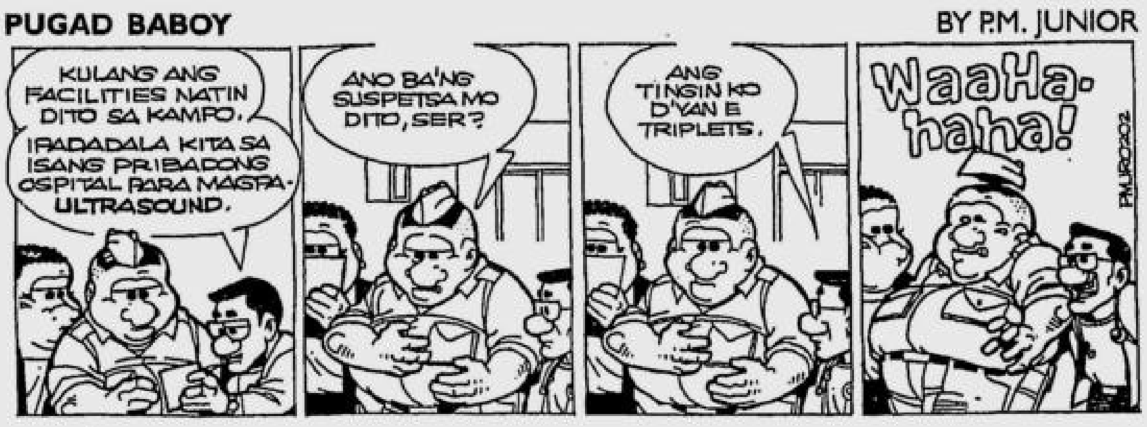
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SI ERAP NGA WALANG PR FIRM NA INUPAHAN, PERO...
MAY MEDIA EXPOSURES DIN! NA TIME MAGAZINE DIN SIYA!
NEGATIVE NGA LANG!
YUN NGA LANG!

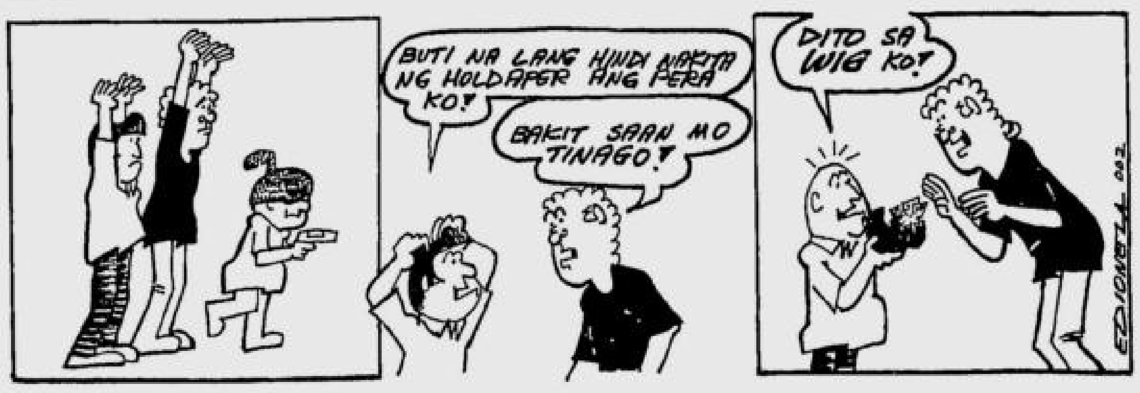
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KULANG ANG FACILITIES NATIN DITO SA KAMPO.
IPADADALA KITA SA ISANG PRIBADONG OSPITAL PARA MAGPA-ULTRASOUND.
ANO BA'NG SUSPETSA MO DITO, SER?
ANG TINGIN KO D'YAN E TRIPLETS.
WaaHa-haha!
PMJR0202

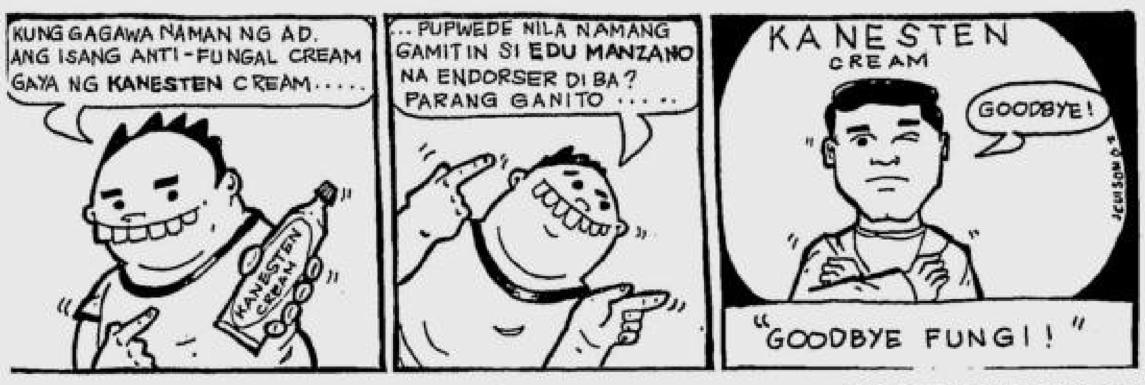
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BUTI NA LANG HINDI NAKITA NG HOLDAPER ANG PERA KO!
BAKIT SAAN MO TINAGO?
DITO SA WIG KO!
EDIONELA 002

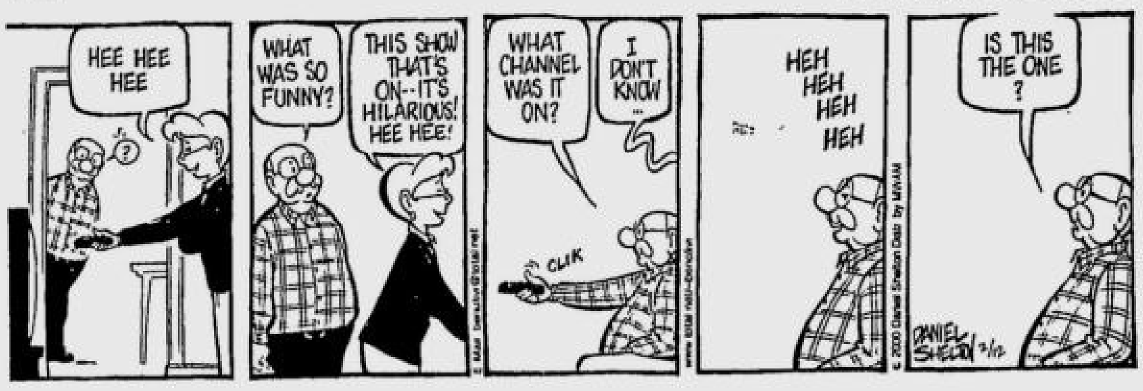
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


KUNG GAGAWA NAMAN NG AD. ANG ISANG ANTI-FUNGAL CREAM GAYA NG KANESTEN CREAM.....
KANESTEN CREAM
...PUPWEDE NILA NAMANG GAMITIN SI EDU MANZANO NA ENDORSER DI BA? PARANG GANITO.....
KANESTEN CREAM
GOODBYE!
"GOODBYE FUNGI!"

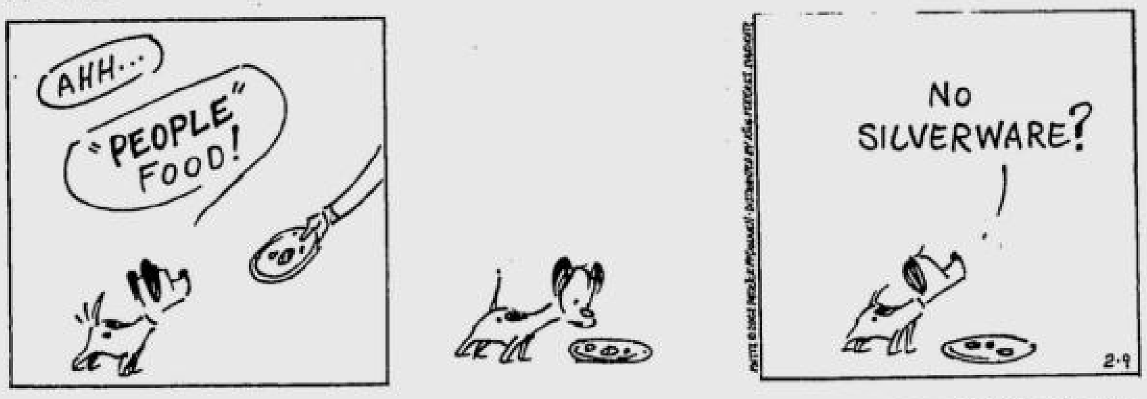
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEE HEE HEE
?
WHAT WAS SO FUNNY?
THIS SHOW THAT'S ON--IT'S HILARIOUS! HEE HEE!
WHAT CHANNEL WAS IT ON?
I DON'T KNOW ...
CLIK
HEH HEH HEH HEH
IS THIS THE ONE ?
DANIEL SHELTON

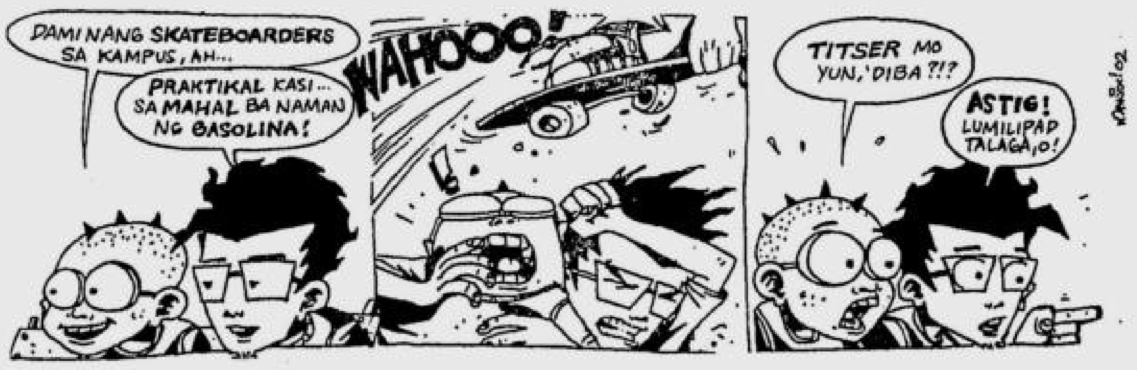
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH...
"PEOPLE" FOOD!
No SILVERWARE?
2-9

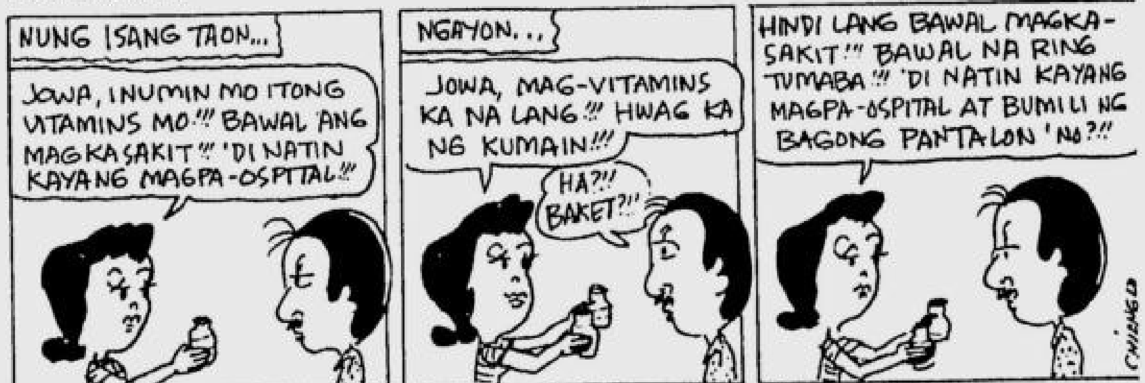
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


DAMI NANG SKATEBOARDERS SA KAMPUS, AH...
PRAKTIKAL KASI... SA MAHAL BA NAMAN NG GASOLINA!
WAHOOO!
TITSER MO YUN, 'DIBA?!?
ASTIG! LUMILIPAD TALAGA, O!

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUNG ISANG TAON...
JOWA, INUMIN MO ITONG VITAMINS MO!!! BAWAL ANG MAGKASAKIT!!! 'DI NATIN KAYANG MAGPA-OSPITAL!!!
NGAYON...
JOWA, MAG-VITAMINS KA NA LANG!!! HWAG KA NG KUMAIN!!!
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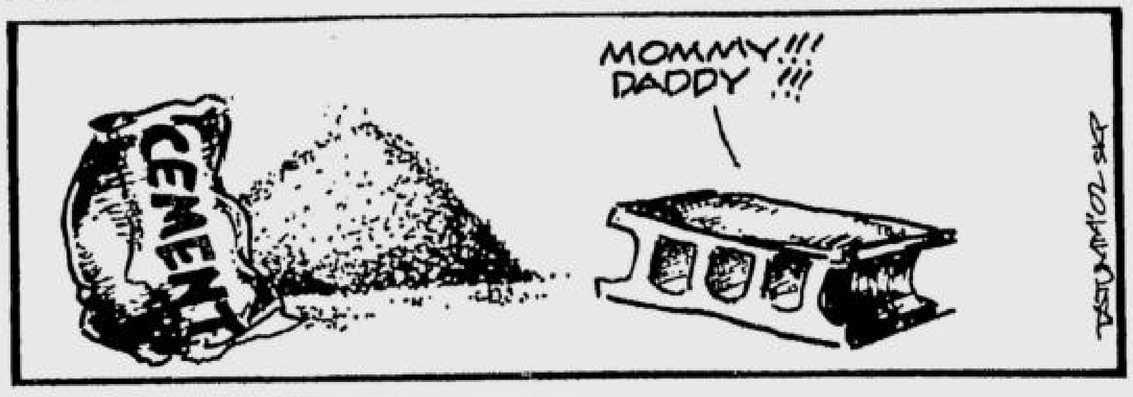
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‘Gosford Park’ tops Evening Standard Film Awards

By Matt Wolf

ALTMAN. Directed best film.

WINSLET. Best actress.

LONDON—"Gosford Park," the distinguished American filmmaker Robert Altman's satiric dissection of the British class system in the 1930s, was named the top film Sunday at the 29th annual Evening Standard Film Awards, honoring achievement in British moviemaking during 2001.

Standing ovation

Altman, who will be 77 later this month, received a standing ovation from the black-tie audience at London's Savoy Hotel as he stepped to the podium to receive the prize from one of his film's stars, Dame Maggie Smith.

The choice of "Gosford Park" was perhaps mildly surprising insofar as it only opened commercially in Britain two days prior to the ceremony.

A second ovation went to Christopher Lee, a veteran of countless "Dracula" films as well as the current "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring." Accepting his special award for lifetime achievement, the famously gaunt Lee, 69, said the prize was proof that "one is never too old and, in my case, . . . one cannot be too tall." Lee stands well over six feet (1.82 meters).

Lovesick and overweight

"Bridget Jones's Diary," which starred American actress Renee Zellweger as the lovesick and overweight Londoner of the title, won two awards: Hugh Grant for best comic performance and Richard Curtis, Andrew Davies and Helen Fielding for best screenplay.

Best actor went to Linus Roache for playing the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge in "Pandaemonium." Best actress went to Kate Winslet for three films—"Quills," "Enigma," and "Iris." Winslet won in this category in 1996.

The technical achievement prize went to production designer Stuart Craig for "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," with Most Promising Newcomer going to writer-director Ben Hopkins for his little-seen Anglo-German movie, "The Nine Lives of Tomas Katz."

The awards are named for The Evening Standard, London's afternoon newspaper. The dinner kicked off a busy month for show biz trophy-giving in Britain, which includes the Olivier Awards, London's Tonys, on Feb. 15 and the British Academy Awards on Feb. 24. ***AP***

Japanese actor with a Pinoy heart

By Remy M. Umerez

AS producer and actor, Jacky Woo has decided to expand his horizons beyond his native Japan, by conquering audiences in Southeast Asia, principally the Philippines.

Action movies

Jacky has produced two local action movies, "Total Aikido" and "Dudurugin Ko Pati Buto Mo," where the work of the entire production team impressed him a lot. They were also learning experiences.

"Whenever I go to another country, I explore the market, the audience and the prevailing conditions. I test my ideas against all these to determine what will click with local viewers."

Jacky saw the popularity here of the game of billiards, so he has focused on it with his new movie, "The Hustler." Jacky plays a young man who hustles in billiard halls to earn easy money.

Girlfriend

Former beauty queen Jo Canonizado plays his girlfriend Tessa, who gives him strength during his weakest moments.

As producer, Jacky is aware of the role sex plays in an action movie. The action and sex formula, he says, remains the same all over the world. But his love scenes with Jo pale in comparison to the steamy scene in a jacuzzi executed by Via Veloso and John Apacible.

The showing of the movie is timed with the release of Jacky's debut album. The carrier single, "Naroon Pa Rin," is featured in the movie.

"Naroon Pa Rin" as well as the other cuts in the album are popular Japanese ditties with Filipino lyrics. Jacky believes that the sentiments conveyed in a Japanese love song are similar to the emotions expressed in a Filipino song.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Joe Orton's scripts are still fresh and biting

By Noelani Torre

NO one who knows anything about modern British drama would associate Joe Orton's plays with rainy-day reading. His work does not encourage relaxation at all, which is why we found ourselves wide-eyed and glued to the pages of his "Complete Plays" hours after the last raindrop had fallen outside.

It was boredom that prompted us to pick up the book from the shelf, but it was definitely not boredom that kept urging us to read on until the very last page.

Singular playwright

We resolved then to find out what we could about this singular playwright who still managed to shock our somewhat jaded 21st century sensibilities. And it was a bit of a surprise to discover that he had lived and died decades before we members of the MTV and reality TV generation were even born.

(Which just goes to show that everything has already been done before and that we would know this if we would just read the books gathering dust on our shelves.)

Described as a "great satirist," "the master farceur of his age," and "the Oscar Wilde of Welfare State gentility," John Kingsley Orton lived, thrived and died in the frenzied '60s, leaving behind a body of work that continues to exert influence to this day.

Acting career

Orton was born into a lower middle-class family in Leicester, England on Jan. 1, 1933. Since his teens, his interest had been hooked by the theater and, with an acting career in mind, he auditioned for and won a place at the famed Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Rada).

Orton spent two years there ("I didn't have a very good time at Rada," he wrote in his diary. "I actually expected to be taught something. It was complete rubbish.") where he would meet his lifelong lover and companion Kenneth Halliwell.

Halliwell was the one who dreamed of being a writer and it was he who urged Orton to turn from acting to writing in the late 1950s. The pair wrote several novels which remained unpublished and had somewhat resigned themselves to their lack of literary success until the results of their mischief-making in the library caught up with them in 1962.

"Since 1959," wrote John Lahr in his introduction to "Joe Orton: The Complete Plays," "Orton had been stealing books from libraries and taking humorous revenge on 'all the rubbish that was being published' by altering the bookjackets and blurbs and replacing the books on the shelves." He would then observe other people's reactions to his pranks.

Orton was soon caught, however, and along with Halliwell who assisted him, was "charged with malicious damage done to 83 books and removing 1,653 plates from library books." They were sentenced to jail for six months, and the experience proved to be a turning point in Orton's life.

Stench

"Before, I had been vaguely conscious of something rotten somewhere; prison crystallized this," he said. "The old whore society lifted up her skirts, and the stench was pretty foul. Not that the actual prison treatment was bad; but it was a revelation of what really lies under the surface of our industrialized society."

Shortly after his release from prison, Orton's radio version of his short play "The Ruffian on the Stair" was accepted by the BBC and aired on BBC Radio in 1964. This proved to be the first proof of his soon-to-be acknowledged talent that would blossom from 1964 to 1967.

Within these four years or so, he turned out his three best-known works "Entertaining Mr. Sloane," "Loot," and "What the Butler Saw." These three major plays are contained in "Joe Orton: The Complete Plays" (Grove Press, New York) as well as four shorter ones: "The Ruffian on the Stair," "The Good and Faithful Servant," "The Erpingham Camp," and "Funeral Games."

Joe Orton could have written more but his genius was cut violently short on Aug. 9, 1967 when a deeply depressed and envious Halliwell bashed his head in with a hammer and committed suicide afterward by overdosing on 22 Nembutal sleeping pills washed down with the juice from a tin of grapefruit.

For a while after his horrific end, Orton's dramatic and tragically short life attracted even more attention than his works. Talent like his could not be denied, however, and his works have been re-staged and revived from the '70s until today. His genius is such that his work remains as fresh and biting today as it was 30 or more years ago. ***(To be concluded)***

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New docus on Filipina migrant workers at 'Pelikula at Lipunan'

"SOWING SEEDS." Landscape images, natural sounds.

By Rica Arevalo

TWO new documentaries about Filipina migrant workers in Japan are being premiered at the annual "Pelikula at Lipunan" on Feb. 16, 2002, at 4 p.m. at SM Megamall.

Avic Ilagan's "Sowing Seeds" and Neil Daza's "Disyembre" are the personal journeys of the two filmmakers about loss, racial prejudice and hurting family relationships. Both are grant recipients of The Japan Foundation Manila Office and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Ilagan earlier received a writing grant from the Jan Vrijman Fund, Netherlands, for script development.

Reflection

"Sowing Seeds" is a reflection seen through landscape images, natural sounds, spoken thoughts of the filmmaker and interviews with the subjects. Ilagan, a Peta theater artist and filmmaker, is brave enough to tackle the issue of the Filipina mail-order brides in Japan.

She went around the cities of Tokyo, Shiritaka, Okura and finally landed in Yamagata, a farming community where most of the mail-order-brides reside. There she met Filipina brides Matilde, Elena, Editha, Letty, Asuncion and Vicky.

When Matilde was asked by Ilagan about a problem while driving, they passed along a tunnel where deep-black darkness and intense silence were effectively captured on film. One can feel the isolation and coldness of the bride's situation.

The film was screened last year at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival. The mail-order bride is an issue that exists but has not really been confronted by society. Ilagan's 15-minute film gave the Japanese audience a glimpse of the "silent" issue and a long discussion ensued.

Ordeal

"DISYEMBRE." Long takes and no musical scoring.

"Disyembre," 80 minutes long, is about Nancy Saki and Donna Nishimoto, their ordeal as migrant workers and its effect on their families. Nancy went to Japan to work as an entertainer but landed as a dishwasher while Donna married a Yakuza without her knowing it. Both have children by their Japanese lovers.

Daza is known as a talented cinematographer credited for "Spirit Warriors," "Laro sa Baga" and "La Vida Rosa." He recently won in the Metro Manila Filmfest for "Yamashita Treasure." But behind his impressive camerawork, he is a photojournalist at heart.

His use of black and white all throughout his film reveals his background as a photojournalist. Emotions connected to colors were taken out. His style is simple: long takes, only cut-to-cut editing, no dissolves and no musical scoring.

"I want it to be raw. *Iba pa rin yung totoong tao na kinukunan mo.* When you do movies, you have actors. You rehearse everything to have a perfect shot," says Daza.

No script

His goal is to discover his subjects as their lives unfold. No script was written.

Nancy lives in Manila and has stopped working in entertainment due to health reasons. Donna lives in Yokohama with her son Shohei and her two daughters from her previous relationship in Manila. The loss and hurt of migration and its effect on the family are captured by Daza's unobtrusive camerawork. There is little manipulation on the part of the filmmaker.

The two documentaries were successful in letting their subjects open up their lives as migrant workers in Japan. True, material and financial gains are their motive. Their highest objective to bring home yen is greeted enthusiastically by their relatives. But the saddest realization is the damage that migration has done to Filipino families.

'Black Hawk Down' wins third box-office crown

LOS ANGELES—The war thriller "Black Hawk Down" topped the box office for a third straight weekend, taking in $11.1 million.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Black Hawk Down," Sony, $11.1 million, 3,143 locations, $3,536 average, $75.1 million, six weeks.

'Snow Dogs'

2. "Snow Dogs," Disney, $10.2 million, 2,454 locations, $4,156 average, $51.1 million, three weeks.
3. "A Walk to Remember," Warner Bros., $8.84 million, 2,420 locations, $3,651 average, $23.3 million, two weeks.
4. "The Count of Monte Cristo," Disney, $8.8 million, 2,211 locations, $3,968 average, $23.4 million, two weeks.
5. "A Beautiful Mind," Universal, $8.4 million, 2,250 locations, $3,735 average, $104.5 million, seven weeks.
6. "The Mothman Prophecies," Sony-Screen Gems, $7.4 million, 2,331 locations, $3,159 average, $21.2 million, two weeks.
7. "I Am Sam," New Line, $6.3 million, 1,303 locations, $4,837 average, $17.3 million, six weeks.
8. "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," New Line, $5.7 million, 2,309 locations, $2,470 average, $266.3 million, seven weeks.
9. "Kung Pow! Enter the Fist," Fox, $3.9 million, 2,475 locations, $1,556 average, $12.1 million, two weeks.

'Orange Country'

10. "Orange County," Paramount, $2.9 million, 2,225 locations, $1,292 average, $37.8 million, four weeks.
11. "Slackers," Sony, $2.8 million, 1,893 locations, $1,471 average, $2.8 million, one week.
12. "Birthday Girl," Miramax, $2.37 million, 1,000 locations, $2,371 average, $2.37 million, one week.
13. "Gosford Park," USA Films, $2.36 million, 800 locations, $2,953 average, $19.3 million, six weeks.
14. "The Royal Tenenbaums," Disney, $2.3 million, 978 locations, $2,353 average, $44.8 million, eight weeks.
15. "Ocean's Eleven," Warner Bros., $2.1 million, 1,541 locations, $1,335 average, $178.9 million, nine weeks.
16. "Brotherhood of the Wolf," Universal, $1.9 million, 393 locations, $4,845 average, $6.8 million, four weeks.

'In the Bedroom'

17. "In the Bedroom," Miramax, $1.8 million, 549 locations, $3,329 average, $17 million, 11 weeks.
18. "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," Paramount, $1.2 million, 1,424 locations, $847 average, $77.7 million, seven weeks.
19. "Beauty and the Beast" special edition, Disney, $1.16 million, 68 locations, $17,086 average, $14.1 million, five weeks.
20. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Warner Bros., $1 million, 907 locations, $1,114 average, $312.9 million, 12 weeks. **AP**

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SATURDAY *Special*

Marisa Tomei has Oscar in her sights again

After a string of small-budget movies, she has come up with a powerful performance in 'In the Bedroom'

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Marisa Tomei came out of no-where 10 years ago to land an Oscar for her riotous performance as Joe Pesci's gum-chewing girlfriend in "My Cousin Vinny."

But whatever happened to her big-time career as a leading lady in Hollywood?

The 37-year-old New Yorker is not bothered. After a decade on stage and a string of small-budget movies, she has triumphantly answered her critics with a powerful performance in "In The Bedroom," playing a woman fleeing an abusive husband for a younger lover.

Talk of an Oscar is in the air again but Tomei plays coy.

Gala premiere

"It's like asking someone their age or how much money they have in the bank," she told Reuters, after flying into London with fellow star Sissy Spacek for a gala premiere of the critically acclaimed film at Britain's National Film Theatre.

"I don't want anyone to talk about it. I'm keeping a little secret in my heart," the actress said. Her pivotal role was rewarded with a Golden Globe nomination, a reliable pointer in the run-up to the Oscar lists being compiled next month.

No regrets

Tomei, well used to fans asking what happened to her, is the first to admit that she has had a roller-coaster career. But there are no regrets.

"It has been pretty cyclical, pretty up and down career-wise. But I got to do a lot of interesting things," she said.

TOMEI. Triumphant comeback.

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Berlinale leads off with international touch

By Michael Adler

BERLIN—Berlin's 12-day film festival, the Berlinale, opened Wednesday with a screening of the new film "Heaven" from German director Tom Tykwer, whose previous work "Run Lola Run" was a worldwide success.

Co-production

"Heaven," a melodrama starring Cate Blanchett, is a German-American co-production, shot in English and Italian. Its mixed heritage shows how much the Berlinale strives to be international, taking its place beside Cannes and Venice as one of the leading film festivals of the world.

A total of 23 films are competing for the top prize, the Golden Bear, at the Berlinale and nine will be screened alongside them but out of competition. These 32 films represent a total of 20 different countries.

There are American blockbusters, including "The Royal Tenenbaums," a family saga starring Gene Hackman and Anjelica Huston, and "Monster's Ball," a hard hitting Southern drama starring Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry.

From France comes "8 Femmes," a murder mystery starring Catherine Deneuve and from Britain "Iris," the story of the writer Iris Murdoch's suffering from Alzheimer's disease and starring Judi Dench and Kate Winslet.

Animated film

From Japan, the animated film "Sen To Chihiro No Kamikakushi" (Spirited Away) by Hayao Miyazaki has been selected for the competition.

The Australian film "Beneath Clouds" is screening in competition. Ivan Sen's directing debut will have its world premiere in Berlin. It tells of a young girl who discovers her sense of belonging to two cultures, and features Danielle Hall and Damien Pitt.

A German work in competition is "Baader" directed by Christopher Roth.

BLANCHETT. Stars in the German-American film, "Heaven."

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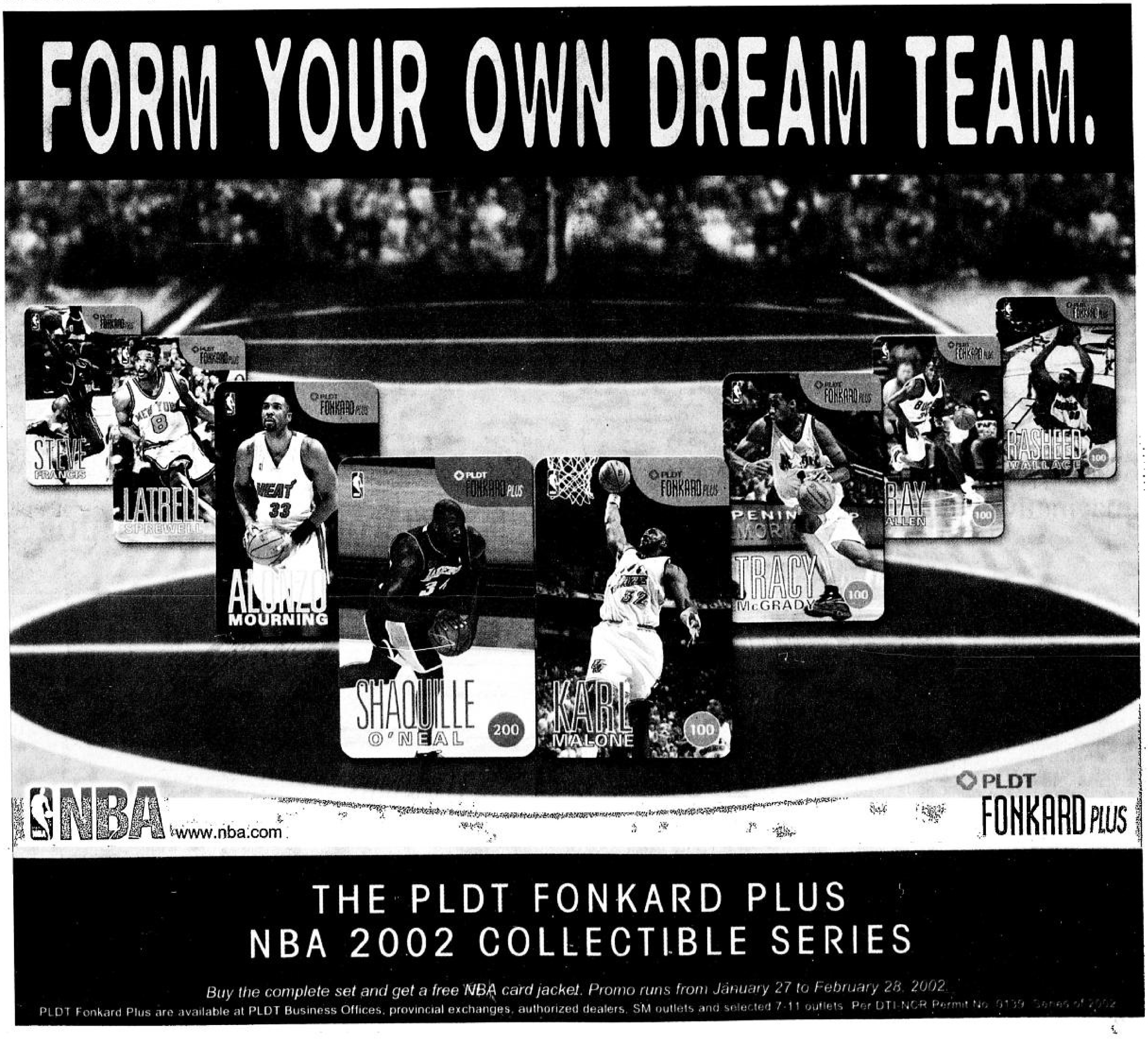

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DEE MARQUEZ

Philippine television's first musical star

By Behn Cervantes

1956! Excited freshmen in UP Diliman could not quite get over the vastness of the campus. Young coeds from *colegios* were shocked to find out they would have to undress for their physical check-up in the UP Infirmary. Intimidated, men had to do likewise.

Beautiful coeds

Those from the province liked the greenery on the campus but were awed by the fast-paced Manila life. Sexually-repressed students from La Salle and Ateneo couldn't believe their luck. Imagine rubbing elbows with beautiful coeds, sitting beside them in tight classrooms, and not having to pray every 30 minutes!

Each new student found his or her group to belong. It could be made up of *kababayans*, or scholastic associations. They could also join UPSCA (Student Catholic Action) or UPCYM (Christian Youth Movement). The more daring ones joined fraternities or sororities where physical initiations were de rigueur.

One thing was sure, there were gorgeous girls on campus. There was the legendary beauty-and-brains Josie Lichauco, the talented and piquant Maureen Tiongco, and the statuesque Zamboangueña Joan Kosloff.

MARQUEZ. A favorite of Manila's couturiers.

Most outstanding

The most outstanding of all was an American *mestiza* from Schenectady in upstate New York, Dolores Marquez. She was tall, slim, brown-haired and gifted with expressive hazel eyes. She literally made people stop dead in their tracks. When my La Salle group first noticed her in the Freshman Orientation Program in the humongous UP Gym, we swooned a "Wwwwowwww! Who is she?"

I was the envy of my friends because I ended up in the same block with her. That meant we were classmates in all subjects for the whole of that first semester. She was then staying with her cousin, Dolores "Bibsy" Marquez Carballo, a product of family-owned St. John's in San Juan.

FROM left, Salvacion Lim, Tessie Ojeda, Mary Prieto, Dee Marquez, and Nora Villanueva-Daza in the 1950s.

Her other cousin Toto Olivera and his UP Prep classmate George F. Sison soon became a gang, especially since other friends like Pinky Rigor were all part of Freddie Guerrero's UP Dramatics Club, with aspiring actors Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Carolina "Bobbie' Malay, Etta Pargas Rosales, Jose Maria Sison and Rita Kalaw Ledesma.

Senior members

Senior members were Celia Diaz Laurel, Jun Roy, Tito Gupit, Cherry Santos, Joy Gamboa Virata and Joe Velez. Phil Cabanos provided the sets while Sonny Osmeña did the lights for plays like "No Exit," "Murder In The Cathedral," "Mrs. Warren's Profession," "Streetcar Named Desire" and "Our Town."

Freddie Guerrero was also impressed by beautiful Dee and hoped to cast her in one of his productions. He finally cast her in the medieval morality plays "Everyman" (as Beauty) and "Second Shepherd's Play" (as the Virgin Mary), where Lino, the erstwhile stagehand *finally* had a speaking role.

By then, Dee was a campus figure, a much-sought-after muse of this and that club. The prestigious Sigma Delta Sorority had recruited her and starred her in their 1957 musical, "Gay '20s" directed by poet Virginia Moreno. Her leading man was a young crooner from Baguio, Bert Nievera.

By now, Dee had already been tapped by Manila's couturiers for those Winter Garden fashion events. She was a standout in those prestigious high-society fashion shows. Her beauty and presence forced society editors to search for new adjectives in their thesaurus to properly describe her. Her face was now a regular in society pages along with other breathtaking beauties of the period like Diana Jean Lopez and Cynthia Sun.

Lovely singing voice

Before long, Danny Velasquez, Teddy Yabut, Mart Martell and Dick Taylor of J. Romero and Associates heard and were impressed by her lovely singing voice. The group decided they would star Dee in the first musical show on Philippine television. Thus, Dee was the star of the "Pacosta Show." Later on, it became "The Dee Marquez Show."

The relatively few people who had television sets then stayed glued to the screen when Dee's lovely face appeared, her delicate features lit to perfection, as she gaily sang "Pennies From Heaven." Another favorite of hers was "Volare," a hit song she rendered with gusto and élan. She was indeed an audio-visual delight. In a short period, Dee became an established social and media personality.

In between fashion events, television shows and other social commitments, Dee was still a coed at UP. She was obviously drawn to the French language because she applied herself especially to Mademoiselle Plagnol's classes.

By 1960, Dee went back to the States. It seemed rather abrupt but Dee was gone. But, before long, friends sent back news of her New York endeavors. It was said that she sang in some club for a spell.

However, the bigger news was when she married noted composer-lyricist Bob Merrill, well-known for his hits "How Much Is That Doggie In The Window," "Love Makes The World Go Round," his music and lyrics for the film "The Brothers Grimm," his lyrics of "Loss Of Love" and the Barbara Streisand musical "Funny Girl." It is also said that Dee inspired the poignant lyrics of "People"!

Real estate business

The marriage found her living in Hollywood, Paris, one of her favorite cities, and Manhattan. It ended but Dee's life went on. She went into the real estate business. She and Merrill remain friends to this day.

Dee and her new husband Larry Lichtfield, an architect, have decided to spend half a year in Manila, rekindling old ties and finding new opportunities for business. Her voice remains fresh and beautiful.

When asked about the possibility of going back to television, Dee gives a heart laugh and says, "Oh, but that was so long ago!" Yes, no doubt, but how fresh and beautiful those memories remain in our enchanted mind. Above all, how wonderful it was that Dee was a big part of it!

This week's Valentine shows

MONTAGE

THE HUNKS made up of Diether Ocampo, Carlos Agassi, Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca and Jericho Rosales mount their first major concert "Hunks: First Time Mo?—The 'Virgin' Valentine Concert" on Feb. 14 at the Folk Arts Theater.

Joining the group are special guests Ai Ai de las Alas, Richard Gomez, Kristine Hermosa, Patricia Javier, John Lapus, Maxine, Rica Peralejo and Jon Santos. The show is directed by Johnny Manahan with Homer Flores as musical director.

Call 634-7773.

Regine Velasquez at the Big Dome

Regine Velasquez joins Brian McKnight in a Valentine concert on Feb. 13 and 14 at the Araneta Colsieum.

Dingdong and Jessa at FAT

Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragoza apear in their first major concert together on Feb. 9 at the Folk Arts Theater. Special guests are Yam Ledesma, The Noisy Neighbors, Whiplash, GMIX Choir and Marissa Sanchez.

Call 433-3195.

SideA and Freestyle at Araneta Coliseum

Side A and Freestyle mount a joint concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 9 and 22

Ynez Veneracion at Southern Bulls

Movie star Ynez Veneracion, who recently launched her new self-titled album, teams up with Boyztown in a Valentine's show on Feb 14 at Southern Bulls on Timog ave., Quezon City.

South Border and Jaya at Hard Rock

Hard Rock Cafe and Love Radio present "Love Soul Valentine" featuring two of the leading R&B artists in the country—South Border and Jaya on Feb. 14 at 9:30 p.m. Other performers scheduled this week are Chad Borja and Bituin Escalante on Feb. 20, First Circle on Feb. 21 and Carlos Agassi with the X-Project on Feb. 22.

Call 893-4661.

Ai Ai and Randy at Music Museum

Comedienne Ai Ai de las Alas and singer Randy Santiago share a wacky Valentine on "Titibok-tibok, Kikiligkilig" on Feb. 9 at 9 p.m. at the Music Museum.

The show is directed by Randy Santiago with Henry Katindig as musical director.

Call 713-9901.

Natural at Streetlife

The newest boy band, Natural, will perform at Glorietta's Streetlife today at 9 p.m. Natural is behind the hit single "Put Your Arms Around Me."

Call 817-5926.

Stella Ruiz at Ultra Bykes

Stella Ruiz will stage a free Valentine show on Feb. 14 at the Ultra Bykes cafe in Pasong Tamo, Makati City. The show will have a repeat on Feb. 16 with Jay Cayuca as special guest.

Call 896-7177.

'Promises, Promises' at Greenbelt's Onstage

"Promises, Promises," the hit musical by Burt Bacharach, Hal David and Neil Simon, returns to Greenbelt's Onstage for its second week today and tomorrow and additional shows on Feb. 14, 15 and 16.

The musical features Rachel Alejandro, Michael Williams, Lee Robin Salazar and Tin Arnaldo and the Ugoy Ugoy band. Bart Guingona directs.

Call 891-5610.

'Pelikula at Lipunan' starts Feb. 13

"Pelikula at Lipunan," now on its 9th year, presents cinematic gems at the SM Megamall on Feb. 13 to 19. Works depicting justice and equality themes highlight the festival's support for Amnesty International's 40th global anniversary and its human rights work—Mike de Leon's "Sister Stella L." Nick Deocampo's "Ynang Bayan," and "Memories of Forgotten War" by Sari Dalena and Camilla Benolirao Griggers.

Orson Welles' immortal "Citizen Kane" inaugurates the week-long exhibition. Wong Kar Wai fans will be treated to the premiere of "In the Mood for Love."

The late Nida Blanca gets feted in three movies: "Magdusa Ka," "John en Marsha" and "Waray Waray."

Call 727-1915.

'MI2' promo on HBO

"Mission Impossible II" airs today at 9 p.m. on HBO. Tom Cruise reprises his role as Ethan Hunt, who is sent on a mission to retrieve and destroy the supply of a genetically created disease called "Chimera."

Viewers can win special HBO items by answering the question: "On what date and on what channel will you see Tom Cruise's "MI2"? Send your entries to "MI2" promo, P.O. Box 512, Greenhills, San Juan, MM. Winners will be notified. (***Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam***)

The day I made Roselle Nava cry

By Edmund L. Sicam

TO be accurate, it was I and a colleague in the entertainment press, Edgar Cruz. No, Roselle didn't cry because we had written something unpleasant about her. In fact the last article I wrote about her came out several years ago when she joined the Phillip Morris jazz tour and there was nothing negative in that write-up.

Album launch

We were seated with her during the recent launch of her new album for Star Records, "All About Love," the fifth in her career. The singer told us that the album contained both happy and sad songs, just like love is in real life. "I believe *na hindi lang* happiness *yung nai*-incorporate *sa* love," Roselle explained. "Also pain. *Lahat ng* songs in this album are about the pain that you go through when you're in love."

This album took a while to finish because Roselle lost her voice some time ago. It was a bad combination of crash dieting and exercise.

One day she had something that felt like a blood rush, and she fell unconscious. When she came to, she said she felt like she had been strangled. "*Masakit yung* throat *ko*. I went to the doctor and he said *namaga yung* vocal chords *ko*," she explains. For three months, Roselle had a difficult time singing.

Singing has always been a part of Roselle's life and so when this happened, she underwent an emotional crisis of sorts. "*Na*-depress (*ako*). *Parang* a certain part of me was missing. *Sobrang hirap po*," she relates with sadness.

Roselle turned to prayer and she is grateful that her pleas were heard. "*Binalik naman ni* Lord (*ang boses ko*). I'm thankful he gave me another chance to share my talent."

NAVA. Emotional crisis.

Delay

Actually, this album was supposed to come out as early as last year. However, because of her "accident," Star had to delay the recording. When Roselle's voice came back, other obstacles came up, further delaying the completion of the album. However, Roselle feels that the timing of her album's release is just right. "February is the month of lovers!" she says optimistically.

Roselle proudly reveals that Regine Velasquez produced one of the songs in her album. Regine would give her tips on how to deliver the song. "She even did the back-up vocals with me, and she didn't charge me anything!" says the thrilled Roselle. Roselle describes their friendship as being like sisters. "She's always concerned. Like *yung nangyari sa boses ko, pinagalitan niya ako. Luka-luka daw ako!*"

She said that she is "seeing someone" but that "it's not really a priority" because she feels she has to make up for the time she lost. The guy is not from show biz. They have been "seeing each other" for over a year now.

Acting career

She says she is not too keen on pushing her acting career because she is not yet confident of her acting abilities. "Sometimes I find it easy to cry. Then there are times *na*, no matter how hard I try, *mahirap*. I don't want to let other people see that I'm in pain. *Siyempre*, when you act, *papakita mo yung* feelings *mo*. I guess I'm not ready yet." Roselle admits that she has a fear of rejection and failure, which may be what is holding her back.

She also reveals that there are times when she finds herself crying alone in her room for no apparent reason. Someone commented that she must be a very sensitive person. She nods in agreement, then before we know it, her eyes turn red. Tears start to fall down her cheeks.

When Roselle is more composed, we ask her why she cried. She answers, "*Nare*-remember *ko siguro yung* time I was crying in my room, all by myself, and then he (referring to me!) asked me about my dad... (pause)... *kasi*, I usually use my dad ... (pause) ... to help me cry ... all the hardships ... (pause) ... *ayoko nang umiyak!*" she says, holding back a new stream of tears.

This time, she cannot hold it back any longer. Roselle lets her tears fall unloading some heavy, secret pain she is carrying inside. She keeps apologizing for her outburst, but we encourage her to let it all out. True enough, when Roselle calms down, she stands up to sing her carrier single and she definitely feels much better. Edgar and I are quite relieved!

Goldberg's 'Cirque' spells imaginative entertainment

IMAGINE this: You are standing amidst a foggy darkness enveloping what seems to be an unrecognizable realm. Suddenly, rays of light reveal hues of red, violet and blue. Then beings of unknown origin surface, some flying in their colorful costumes, while others tease you with their circling, hypnotic moves.

Mirage

You blink to see if everything is a mirage. And you realize it is not a dream after all—it is here to stay.

This will be the scenario for spectators at the Araneta Coliseum when the much-anticipated circus extravaganza, Neil Goldberg's "Cirque," comes to Manila to show case its highly-acclaimed circus artistry from Feb. 26 to March 10.

"Audiences will be left breathless watching every stilts, trapeze or bungee act. "Cirque" is not just a circus show, it is a story that every child fantasizes about.

"Cirque" is inspired by the French cirque tradition.

Asian tour

With its Asian tour limited only to Hong Kong and the Philippines, Neil Goldberg's "Cirque" is an international ensemble of the world's most talented and unique artists—from contortionists to muscle men, aerialists to jugglers and clowns—representing Mongolia, China, United States, Russia, Hungary, Germany, and Canada.

"CIRQUE." A story that every child fantasizes about.

It relates the adventures of a comical character named Ringabella who sleepwalks his way into a giant grandfather clock and in seconds is transported in time to a world beyond his imagination. What happens next is an encounter with dream personalities and other interesting beings representing a dreamer's imaginings about the infinite possibilities of life.

There are daily shows scheduled at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., except on March 4, a rest day. Call 911-5555.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Hunter's book is 'last word on scriptwriting'

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

"THE TWO-MINUTE Movie" is the second chapter of Lee Hunter's book, "Screenwriting 434," wherein the author tackles the story, which he describes as "the most precarious screenwriting cliff to climb." The actual script, he says, is easier to do than the story because "if the story is badly developed, that will always be reflected in the script."

He advises beginners to ground themselves in "the fundamentals of Aristotle's "Poetics" and Lajos Egri's "The Art of Dramatic Writing." He espouses the three-act format with its beginning (exposition), middle (conflict), and end (resolution).

Two-minute movie

Hunter leads by example by writing a two-minute movie of his own story, just as he advises beginning writers to do.

The next chapter is concerned with character development. Character, according to Hunter, is "what screenwriting is really all about." Here he teaches us how to develop memorable characters, characters "who have a history."

He asserts that there are only two character types: heavies and heroes. Some might not be too comfortable with this generalization, but Hunter argues that this doesn't have to be limiting. He quotes Egri's "unity of opposites" to support his argument.

He also digs into character motivation (greed or power for the heavies), character dialogue (don't write long conversations and don't be overly brilliant), and rounds off the chapter by reminding us that "character and plot must intertwine."

The next step in the screenwriting process is the outline, which is extensively discussed in chapter four. "Outlining frees your creativity," says Hunter.

Outlining

"When writing the screenplay, outlining allows you to focus your heart, mind, and imagination on the dramatic potentials within each scene, without being shackled by story-telling bonds." This is sound advice, as other veteran writers would no doubt agree.

Our step outline (that's the story's scene-to-scene development) should number about 30 steps for drama and more or less 45 for comedy or action/adventure, says our screenwriting guru. He also insists that we "know about the three-act page count structure now" while we're writing the outline.

The first act should end at around page 17, the second act at page 85 (maybe), and the third at 100-110, 110 pages of script being 110 minutes of movie time. This may sound arbitrary but Hunter does draw from personal experience and observation and the figures he sets are quite logical—after all, "the audience doesn't want to wait until, say, page 30 to find out what they're watching."

Following fiction's basic rule of "show, don't tell," Hunter proceeds to tackle the script itself (from acts one to three). His own story, which has been done in the two-minute movie format and step-outlined as well, is written before our eyes with loads of insights and comments from the author. With such an illustration, he gets his point through clearly and succinctly.

Script format

All three chapters contain a lot of helpful writing do's and don'ts from script format to dialogue, description, and rhythm.

The final chapter expounds on the sometimes painful but necessary process of rewriting. This is where we "do all we might to mature the script as well as we can before sending it into the cold world."

He advises writers to "be masochistic" and to not be afraid to ask the opinion of others. Read-throughs are important to him, so much so that he advocates six.

In the first reading, one should concentrate on trying "to find affirmation that the script can turn out to be a baby worth raising." In succeeding read-throughs, focus must be shifted to dialogue, descriptions, characters, and touches or details. The last read-through is "the test drive" which will lead to polishing, that is if one hasn't torn one's work to pieces yet.

Hunter ends with an exhortation that is the very heart of his philosophy: "We all have talent. How we use it and don't use it is what the game is about in writing, and in life itself.

"Believe in your talent for screenwriting. Talent is the expression of your soul. Who would deny their soul? Absolutely no one, not you or any human within sniffing distance of 434."

XO sauce now available locally

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

MANY moons ago, I came across a fantastic dish at a Chinese lauriat at the Tin Hau restaurant at the Mandarin Hotel. It was a seafood dish with XO sauce.

Spicy

The first thing that came to mind was something hot or spicy that did exactly what the cognac XO does to the throat when sipped. On a chilly night, a sip of this after-meals beverage will line the throat with warmth and relaxation. (One of the best I've tried is a French brand called "Delamain.")

That belief was partly true. I loved that dish. But after that encounter, I never came across it again.

Samples

Many years later, I was invited to the Lee Kum Kee facility in Hong Kong, where I was shown one of the most impressive food plants I have ever seen. Lee Kum Kee is the largest creator of authentic Chinese sauces. After the visit, I was shown the many products the plant produces, and was given some samples of the sauces.

Memories

Among the gifts I received were two bottles of XO sauce. They brought back memories of that wonderful lauriat at Tin Hau. Those bottles didn't last very long. Alas, I never found out where to get them.

A few years later, however, I saw them in a Chinese grocery in San Jose, California. The bottles I purchased again didn't last long. I have waited this long to share this discovery, for only recently has the product has become available in the market.

Blend

Lee Kum Kee's XO sauce is a blend of different ingredients. It is mainly made up of dried shredded scallops, minced Chinese ham, dried shrimps, red chili peppers and other spices. It is dark brown in color and can be used in an assortment of ways. It is perfect mixed or used as a dipping sauce.

Steamed rice

I love mixing it with steamed rice, boiled mixed vegetables, on an omelette, with dimsum, piping hot noodles, with fried rice, sushi or *lugaw*. Or just have it like *atchara*.

I have it on the side with steamed rice and any *ulam*, specially fried and crispy ones. It is mildly spicy and simply delicious. Problem is, you tend to eat more rice ("*pampagana*"). This magical sauce comes in a small black and gold container. It can be enjoyed straight from the bottle, too.

Groceries

Today, there are many groceries that carry the XO sauce in the country—Landmark, Hi Top along Quezon blvd., Puregold, Unimart, Cherry Foodorama, and a few others.

Here's something that'll add spice (literally and figuratively) to our everyday meals. Comes highly recommended! Check it out.

Happy eating!

DAZA brothers Sandy and Bong both love to cook--and eat!

All about Sandy Daza, Cornell graduate and food expert

By Bong Daza

LAST Saturday, my Kuya Sandy (56 years old but he doesn't look a bit over 62!) wrote in his "Word of Mouth" column about my being exaggerated when it comes to the food I love. This is true but I just want to correct him about my eating porkchops (fat included) for a year. It was not only for a year, it was at least *three*.

After which I switched to *bangus* and *kangkong* and have been eating these at home since 1984 when I developed a heart problem. (My girlfriend left me for our married gay driver!) Also due to high cholesterol, high blood, high everything, except my income!

Lamb

My favorite when I eat out is lamb. Any kind of lamb, *basta* grilled and medium rare: rack of lamb, lamb chops, lamb shank (yummy, if stewed!), lamb legs, lamb *ingan* and lamb *anog* and crispy french fries (without salt—normally I don't take salt except when I swim in the sea).

He also mentioned my experience with dog food. Well, when you're hungry and a bit tipsy, everything tastes good!

I remember walking down the stairs the following morning when I heard our maid asking Sandy about the dog food and how they both laughed when they realized it was I who had eaten it. So I quietly went back to my room and forced myself to sleep the whole day, trying not to think about what I had eaten.

At that time, 1985, I would buy frozen dog food: rice mixed with chicken, beef, etc. Come to think of it, I thought it was good! So did Jolla, my imported female German Shepherd .

I had to give her away when I got married because my wife had a hot male boxer. So, every now and then we would have a litter of puppies, each with a boxer face and a German Shepherd body. German Boxers? Ugh!

Student

Well, let me tell you about Sandy's experience when he was a student at Cornell University. (Yes, Sandy studied at Cornell, as did my mom and sister Nina). I went to Cornell too but I decided not to continue as I got scared. This was in 1970, the height of black power, hippism, etc. And I had come from the Ateneo where we were dressed in neat clothes everyday, went to mass, carried rosaries in our pocket, etc.—*totally* conservative. In Cornell, at that time, even the professors came stoned, barefoot, in shorts and leather sandals.

I had some horrifying experiences. I was not used to this kind of school. Actually, it was a small frenzied city full of radicals, druggies, orgies, etc. I was, culture- shocked (I was only 15 years old at that time). So I went instead to St. Mary's College, a small private school run by the Christian Brothers (a La Salle school). So I am both Atenean (grade school and high school) and La Sallite (college). I took my MBA at Harvard and graduated without Harvard knowing it.

Anyway, going back to Sandy's experience, one day after their Chemistry exams, the teacher announced that the passing grade of the test had to be lowered because although the highest score was 100, the lowest was 11. Sandy and his girlfriend Ana were laughing so much, they were in tears. Sandy said: "11? Ha, ha, ha, ha! Hew kewd thet dummy be?" (in his best Emerikan accent).

Results

At that time, Sandy was going out with Ana Hilario, the very pretty and sweet daughter of Armi Kuvsela Hilario, the first Miss Universe .

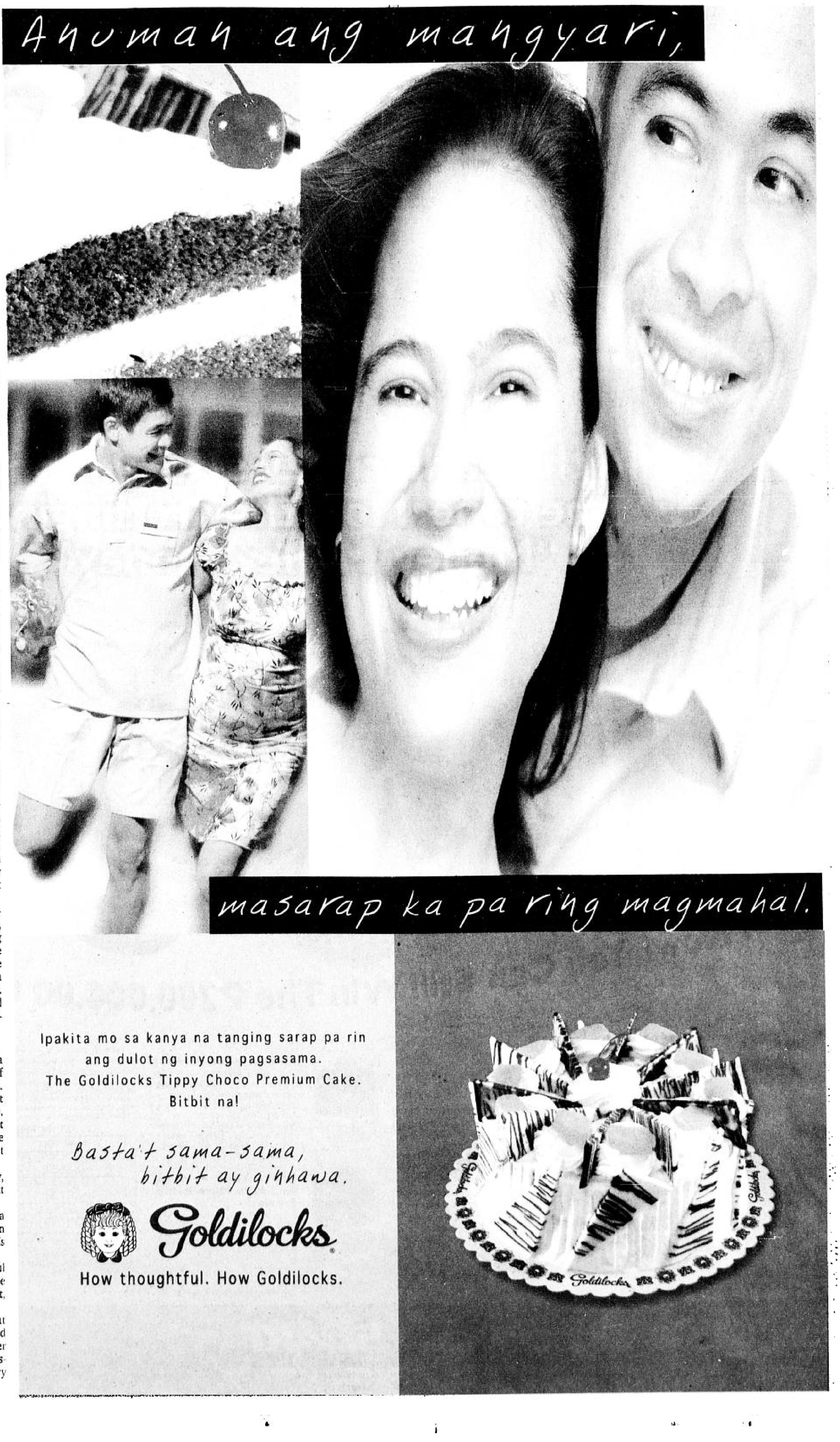
Later that day, Sandy went to his student box to get the results of the Chemistry exams. He excitedly opened it—and, of course, *he* got the 11%. (At first, he read 110%, so he jumped with joy!) Then he just crumpled it and ate the exam paper when he saw Ana.

"What did you get, Eyna?" he asked. Shyly, she said "100%." "And you, Sandy?" Without batting an eyelash: "87 only."

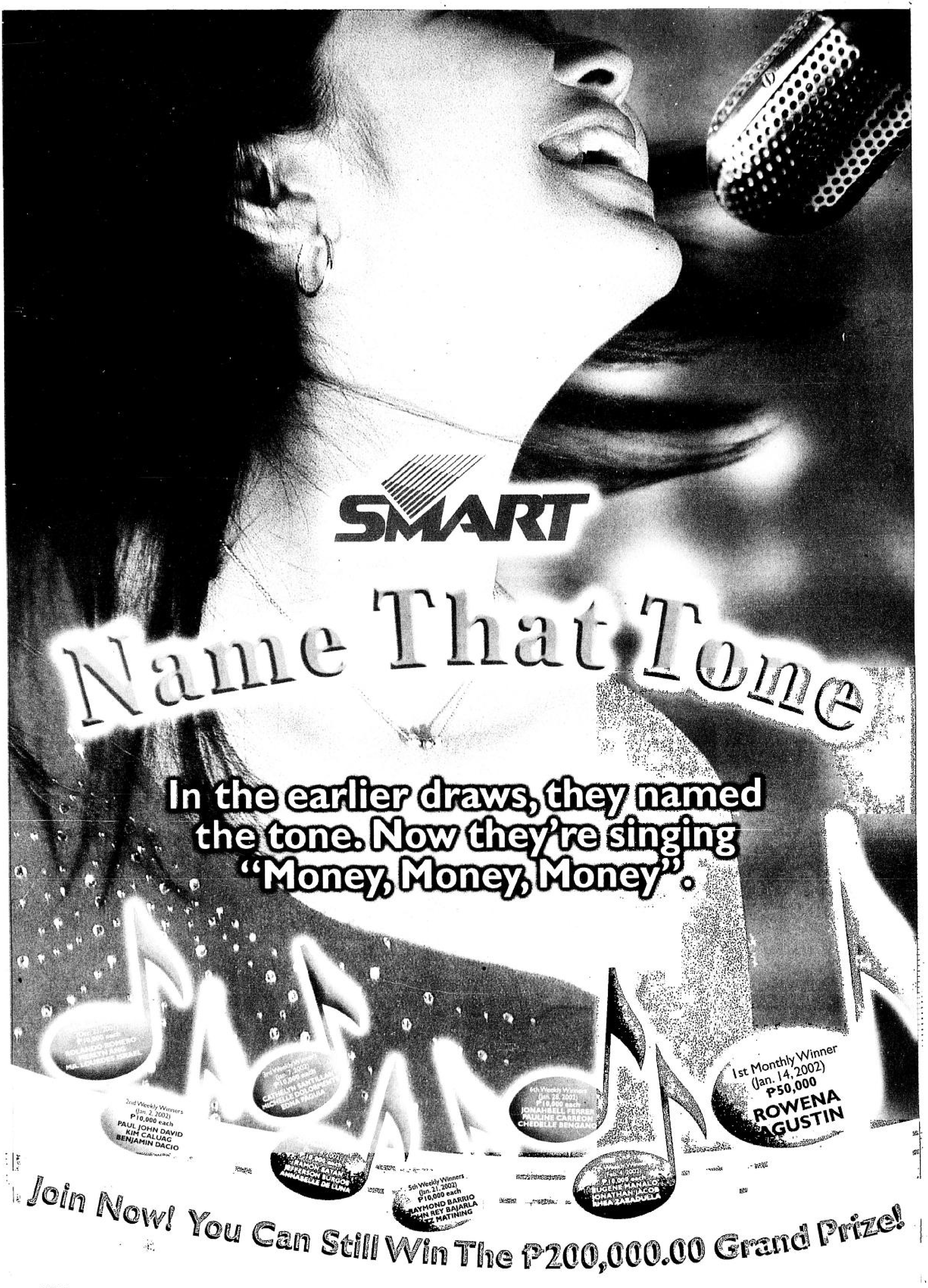
Ana graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 average. Sandy graduated with a 1.5 in Vulcanizing. So, now you know why Sandy is into food and not a scientist.

Well, *Kuya* Sandy is now very successful with his TV show and food outlets—like Sandy's Cuisine at the Enterprise food court, which has incredibly good food .

He also has four outlets of Mai Thai at Greenbelt, Edsa Plaza, Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Manila, which Sandy took over then served Pinoy food and siopao. Thai restaurant with Pinoy food? Hmmm... Try Sandy's outlets, great food. Happy eating!


Anuman ang mangyari,
masarap ka pa ring magmahal.
Basta't sama-sama,
bitbit ay ginhawa.
Goldilocks
How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.

Ipakita mo sa kanya na tanging sarap pa rin
ang dulot ng inyong pagsasama.
The Goldilocks Tippy Choco Premium Cake.
Bitbit na!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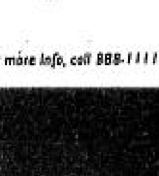
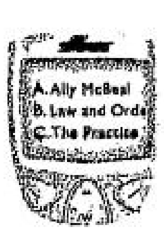

The theme from the Emmy Award winning TV series on the lighter side of law.

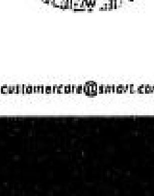
Play The Game!

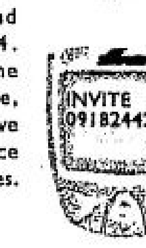
You will then receive a clue about the mystery tone of the day.



Guess The Title By Downloading The Tone!

Key in TONE and send to 234. Together with the downloaded tone, you will also receive the multiple choice set of ringtone titles.


A. Ally McBeal
B. Law and Order
C. The Practice



Text in your Answer!

Simply key in ANSWER <A, B or C> and send to 234. You will receive a message telling you whether you got the correct answer or not. There will only be one chance to guess the mystery tone of the day. Each correct answer earns you 5 raffle entries for the Weekly, Monthly and Grand draws.

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To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.

The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, downloading is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

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WEEKLY DRAW: (3 winners) Feb. 11, 2002	₱10,000.00

*There will be a standard charge of ₱12.00 per ringtone download and ₱2.50 per message for all other transactions.

*Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date.

*Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.

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Groundhog Googlies

World's most famous groundhog predicts 6 more weeks of winter for the US

SIX more weeks of winter. Punxsutawney Phil left his cozy tree stump for this? The furry forecaster sent groans through a record crowd of 40,000 humans last week as they shivered in the subfreezing temperatures early outside the groundhog's home on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pensylvannia.

"I'm going back to California," said Marty Blackburn, visiting on vacation.

His niece, Cindy Narr, of Fulton, Maryland, had been trying to send the famous groundhog warm vibes all morning: "C'mon Phil, I wanted it to be warm!"

No such luck.

Continuing a more than a century-old tradition, at sunrise, Bill Cooper, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle, knocked on the door of Phil's tree-stump home. Bill Deeley, Phil's handler, retrieved the groundhog, and members of the Inner Circle gathered around to hear Phil's proclamation.

KEEPER OF THE GROUNDHOG. Bill Pheely and Phil.

I SAW MY SHADOW (Top photo) Punxsutawny Phil, the Groundhog, saw his shadow on Groundhog Day. (photo right) A record number of 40,000 people came to watch him emerge from his tree stump to predect the remaining days of winter.

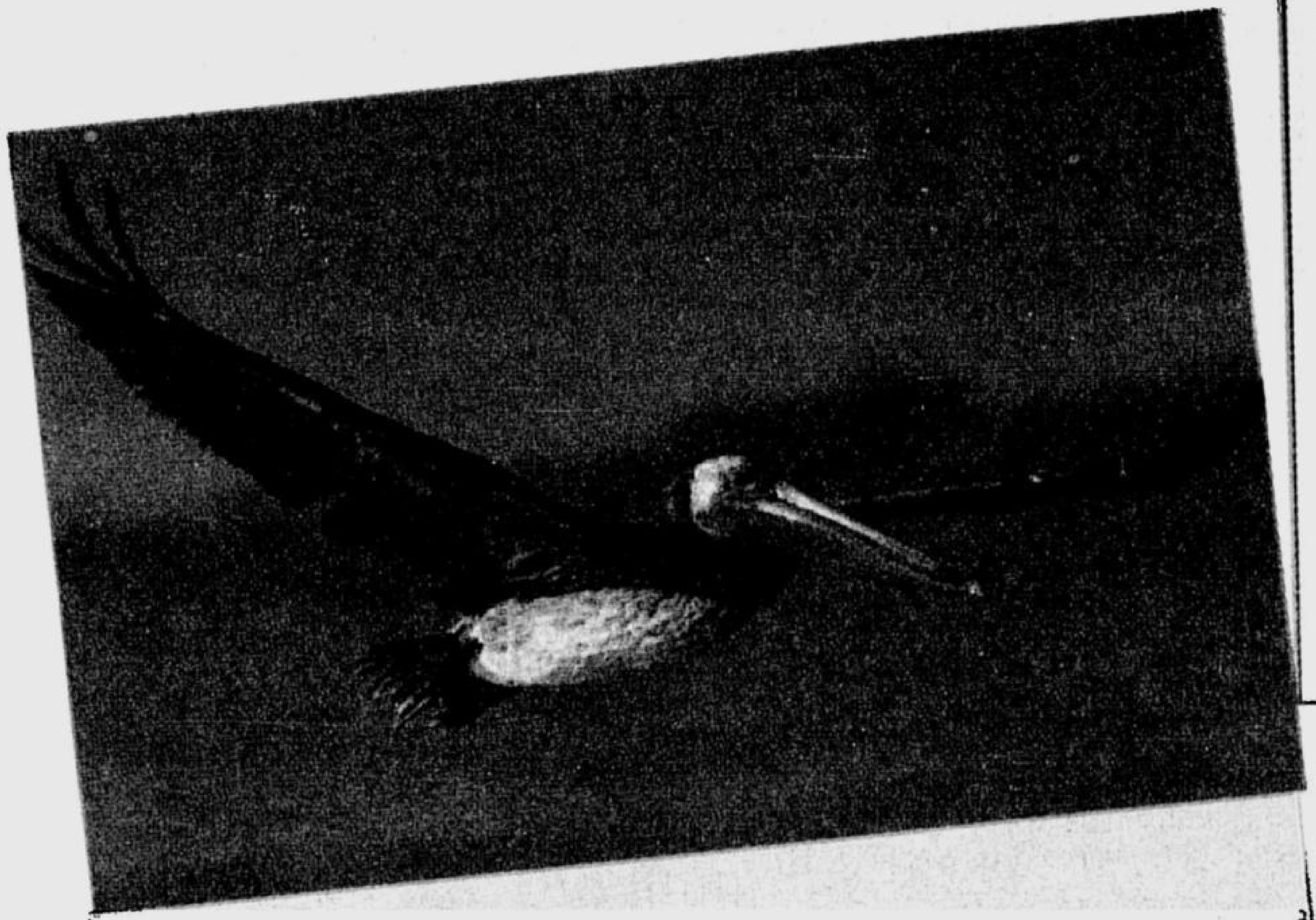
German superstition holds that if an animal sees its shadow on Feb. 2; the Christian holiday of Candlemas then bad weather is in store.

Members of the Inner Circle say Phil reveals his winter forecast by telling them which of two scrolls to read. This year's scroll wasn't what the vast majority of visitors, who had just come through a week of ice storms, had hoped to hear.

Meteorologists say the groundhog's weather prediction looks pretty accurate: February and March are expected to be slightly colder than usual around the Great Lakes and across much of the East Coast, while the northern plains should see above-normal temperatures, according to AccuWeather Inc.

The long-range forecast for Punxsutawney called for near to slightly below normal, said senior meteorologist Bernie Rayno.

"I suspect that that translates into six more weeks of winter," Rayno said. ***AP***



Pelican's Return

A BROWN pelican flies over West Galveston Bay, Texas. US wildlife officials plan to take the brown pelican off the endangered species list in Louisiana and Texas, some 40 years after the bird was nearly wiped out. ***AP***

Baby's Reset Button

Illustration: A Rodriguez

DON'T be bothered when you hear your baby sister sigh during sleep. Sighs are an indication of healthy sleep and sometimes serve as an important survival mechanism, Belgian researchers reported. When a sleeping infant sighs, it seems to reset the autonomic nervous system, which controls blood pressure, heart rate, body temperature and ot her important bodily functions, says to Dr. Sonia Scaillet of University Children's Hospital, Brussels, the study's lead author. ***AP***

World Scope

Brussels, Belgium
Seoul, South Korea
Galveston, USA

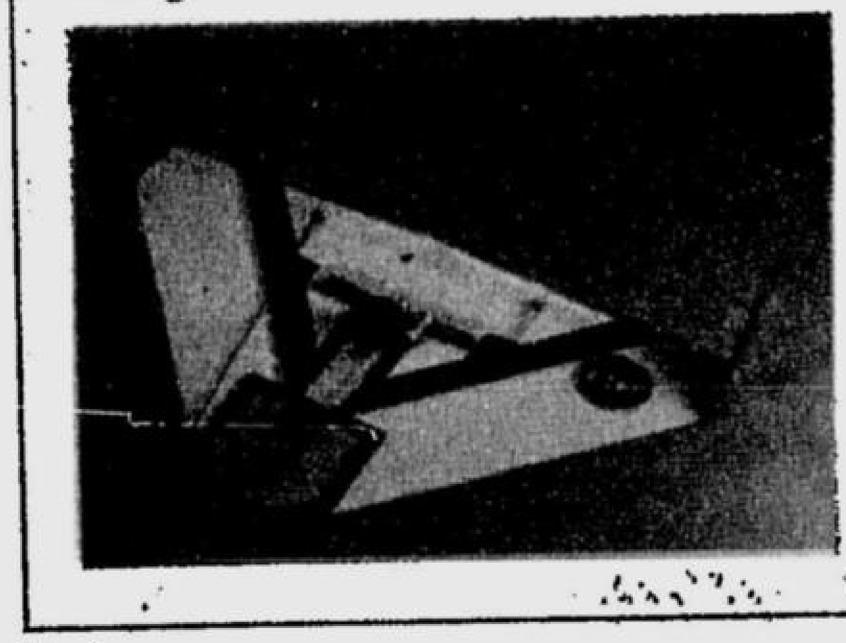
Doggie Rights

A DOG in a cage looks up during a rally to protest Korea's dog meat eating habit at a park. The centuries-old eating habit of Korea drew attention as South Korea prepares to co-host the World Cup soccer finals with Japan on May 31-June 30. President of FIFA Sepp Blatter urged South Koreans to stop eating dog meat during the World Cup. The placard reads "Help Me." *AP*

살려주세요
Help Me

Bug Eyes Over Mars

AIRCRAFT weighing as little as a chocolate bar could one day be darting over the surface of Mars with the agility of dragonflies and the eyes of bees. Australia-based scientists say they have developed navigational and flight control devices based on research into several types of insects. The resulting sensors are so small they can be placed on "micro-flyers," weighing just 2.625 ounces. ***Reuters***



CAMPUS
NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

Viva Sto. Niño

By Monica Lualhati
JI Correspondent, St. Benedict College

THE FILIPINO people have a special devotion to the Sto. Niño. And we, at St. Benedict College, are not an exception. The theme of this year's celebration was "Kapayapaan sa Tulong ni Sto. Niño." This was held on Jan. 25-27.

There was a festive air in the campus and there were several booths selling food, plants, toys and various gift items. The formal opening was held on Jan. 25 at 8 a.m. It started with a parade to the football field where our rector, Fr. Aloysius Maranan, O.S.B., together with the Grade School and High School principals, released some doves as a sign of peace. This was immediately followed by the individual celebrations of the different departments.

The Grade School Department kicked off their celebration with a field demonstration. At 10 a.m., there was a dessert cooking contest at the Grade School H.E. Room. The highlight of the day was the Grade School Dance Festival—a competition that was participated in by the Grades 4, 5 and 6 students.

All of the three levels did their best. The Grade 4 students performed dance numbers from different regions of our country. Students of the various dance classes presented intermission numbers. The judges had a difficult time choosing a winner and we Grade 5 students are very proud and jubilant to say that Grade 5 emerged as the overall winners.

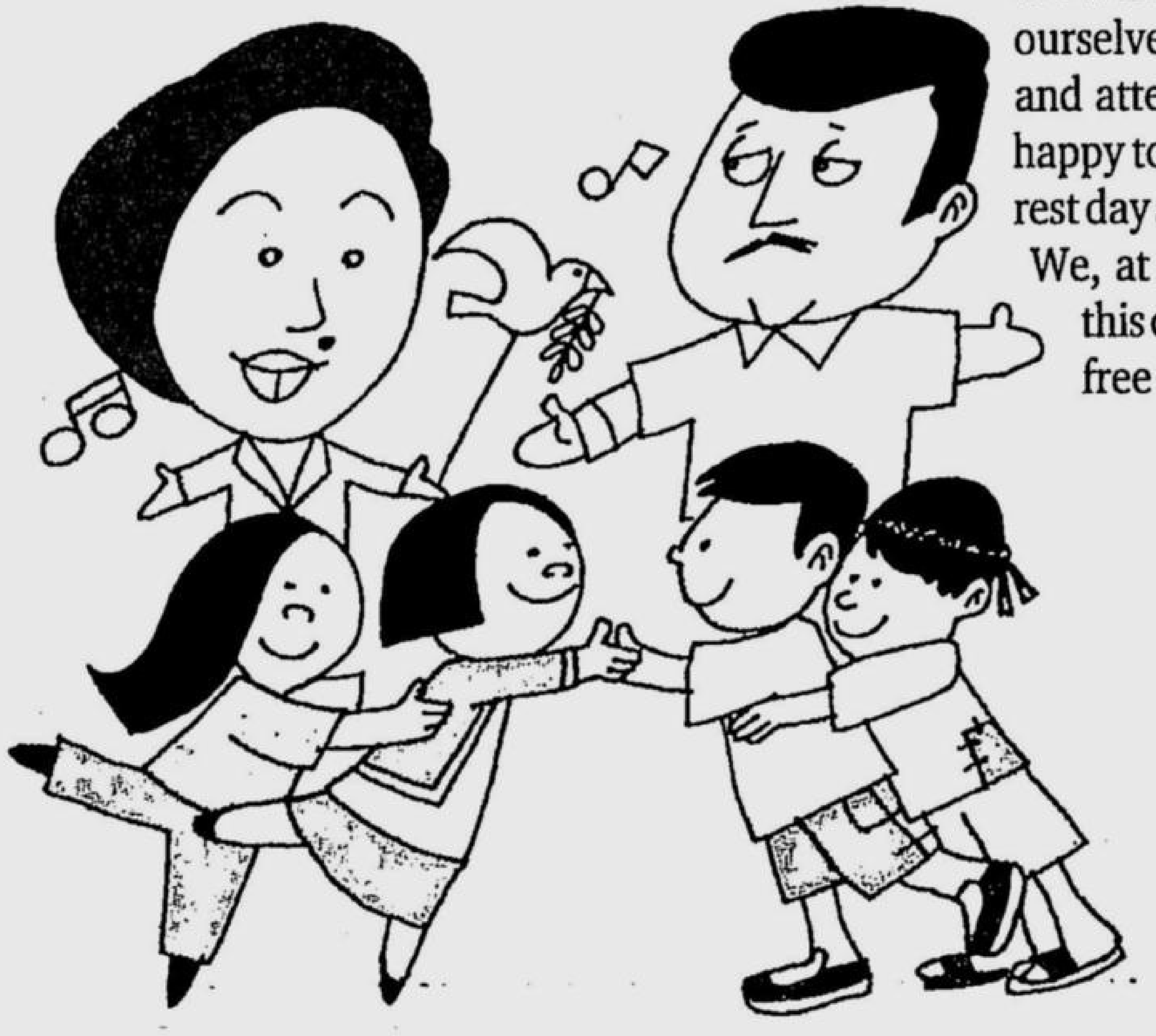
Jan. 27 was the last day of the event. All of us gathered at the school grounds at 2 p.m. for the Sto. Niño Procession.

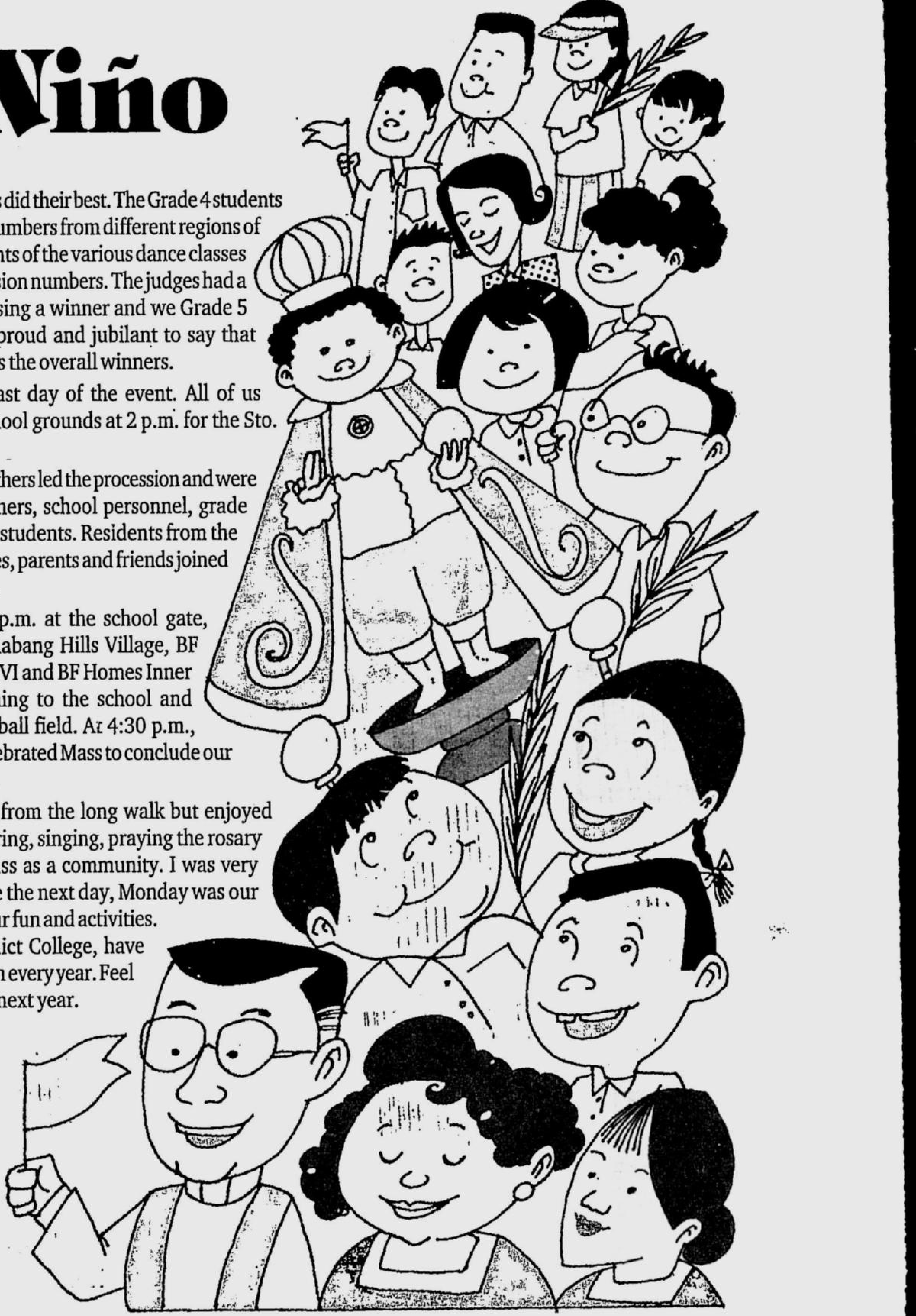
The Benedictine Fathers led the procession and were joined by the teachers, school personnel, grade school and college students. Residents from the neighboring villages, parents and friends joined the procession too.

This started at 3 p.m. at the school gate, passed through Alabang Hills Village, BF Homes East Phase VI and BF Homes Inner Circle before turning to the school and ending at the football field. At 4:30 p.m., there was a concelebrated Mass to conclude our joyous celebration.

We were all tired from the long walk but enjoyed ourselves by cheering, singing, praying the rosary and attending Mass as a community. I was very happy too because the next day, Monday was our rest day after all our fun and activities.

We, at St. Benedict College, have this celebration every year. Feel free to join us next year.



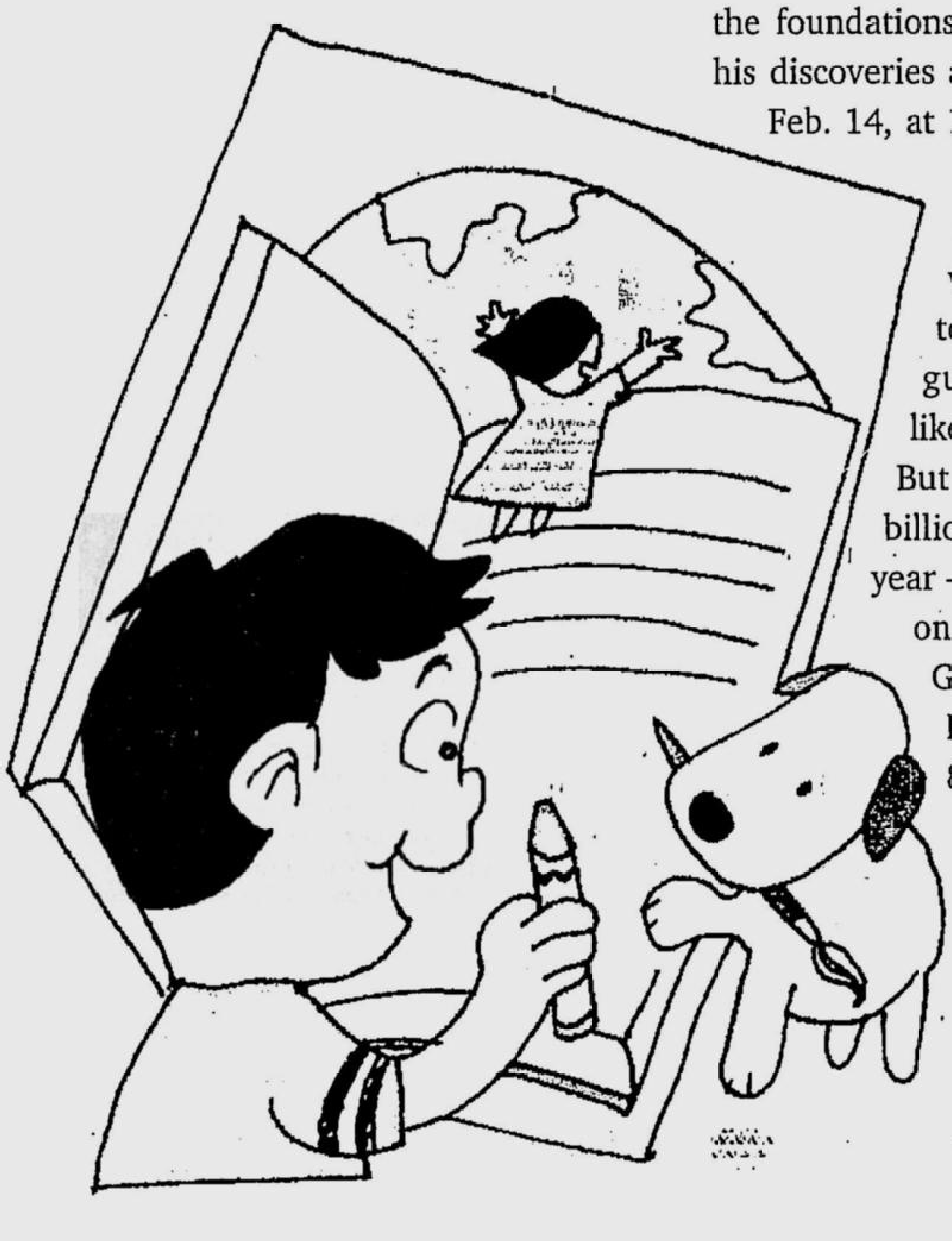


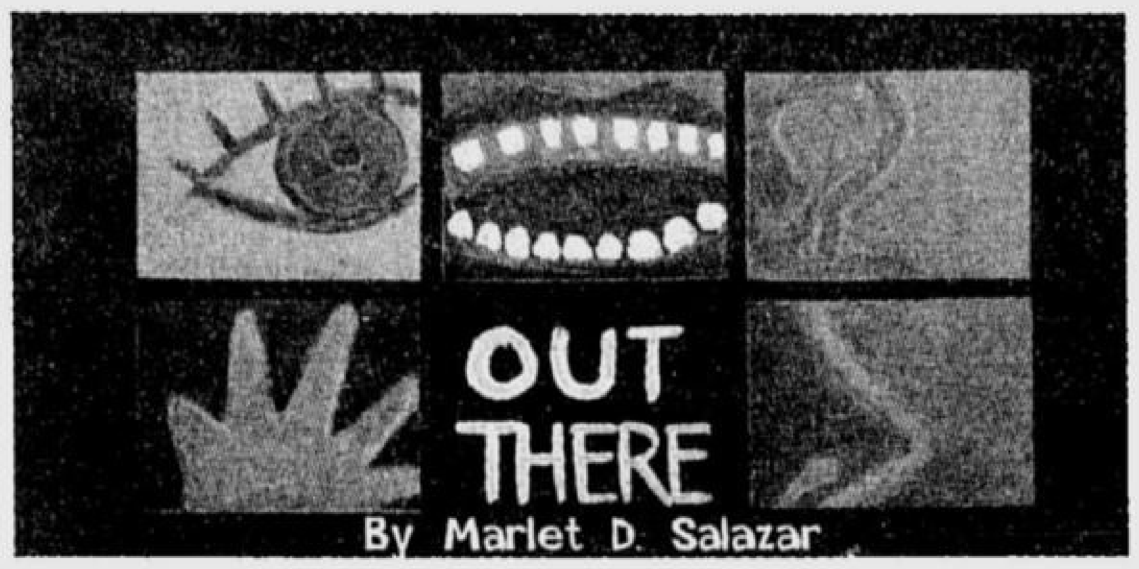
Announcement

CONGRATS! Wooho! Here is the list of winners of the just concluded KID-Kalikasan Poster Making contest. Eunice Gin Candelario, 9, Ampayon Central Elementary School; Roxanned Candelario, 12, Ampayon Central Elementary School; Aimee Socorro Pastor, 12, Ace Learning Center, Palompon, Leyte; Beberly Jane Allego, 11, Tuburan Central School, Cebu. Winners each received P8,000.

Contests

PBBY POSTER. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting design proposals for the 2002 NCBD poster. The theme is "Salamat sa Libro, Abot Ko ang Mundo." Entries must be received by PBBY Secretariat not later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2002. For details call up 372-3548, send an email to pbby@adarna.com.ph, or drop by their office at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City.





Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Cable Picks

SHOWS ON NGC. Have fun and learn a lot from these National Geographic Channel shows.

- **HUMAN EDGE.** See how Japanese scientists create robotic companions and pets, an ultra high-tech video game designed to save lives, and a desert reclamation area in the deserts of Egypt? Find out how all these are possible in "Human Edge" on Feb. 15 at 10 p.m.
- **GALILEO.** Watch how the famous scientist and considered the Father of Science rocked the foundations of the Catholic Church with his discoveries and theories. Don't miss it on Feb. 14, at 10:30 p.m.
- **WASTE NOT.** Ask anyone who lives in one of the world's households with a flush toilet what happens to their gunk and the answer would likely be: "I don't want to know." But the world's waste--over 130 billion kilos of you know what a year --- is going to waste. Lift the lid on the world's toilets on National Geographic Channel's "Earth Report" on SUnday, Feb. 10 at 8:00 p.m.

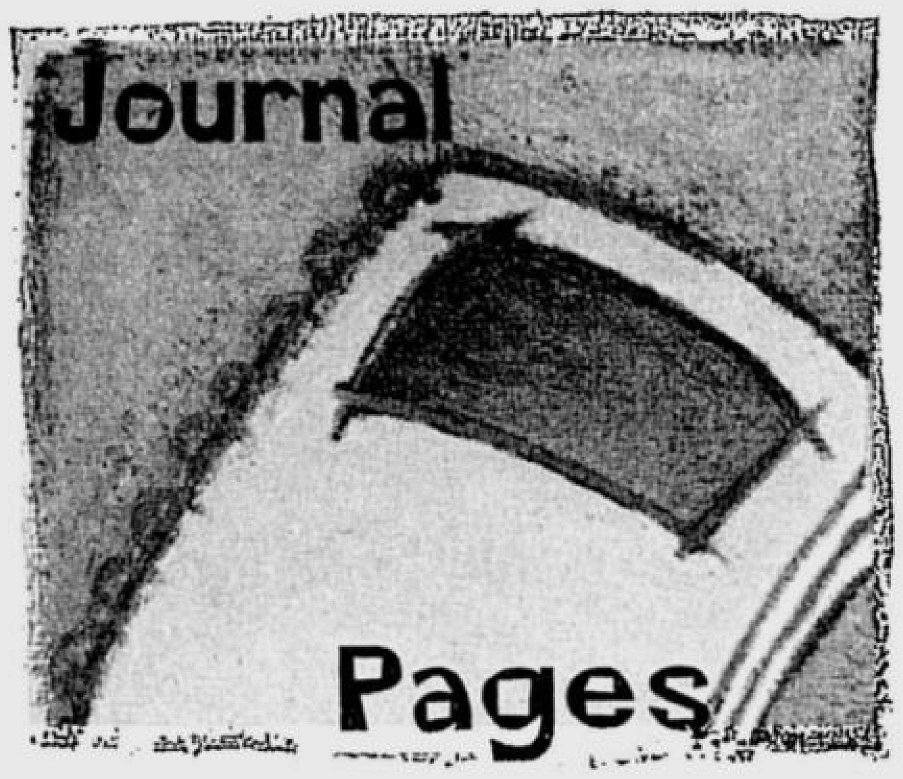
Workshops

JOLLIBEE KIDS WORKSHOP. Learn arts and craft, dancing, singing and many more when you join the Jollibee Kids Workshop Club. When you become a member you will receive the free monthly issue of JKW Digest. The digest features do-it-yourself arts and crafts, stories and everything you need to learn. For workshop schedules check out the following:

- Jollibee Kalookan-LRT: Lani Carandang—361-7850
- Jollibee Grand Central: Jennifer Chua—363-5653
- Jollibee Sta. Lucia-Phase 1: Cindy Cruz—645-5716
- Jollibee Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall: Rian Torrefranca—681-7320
- Jollibee Royal Family Mall: Alex Domingo—984-5398 to 99
- Jollibee Robinsons Place Metro East: Mike Angeles—645-6295

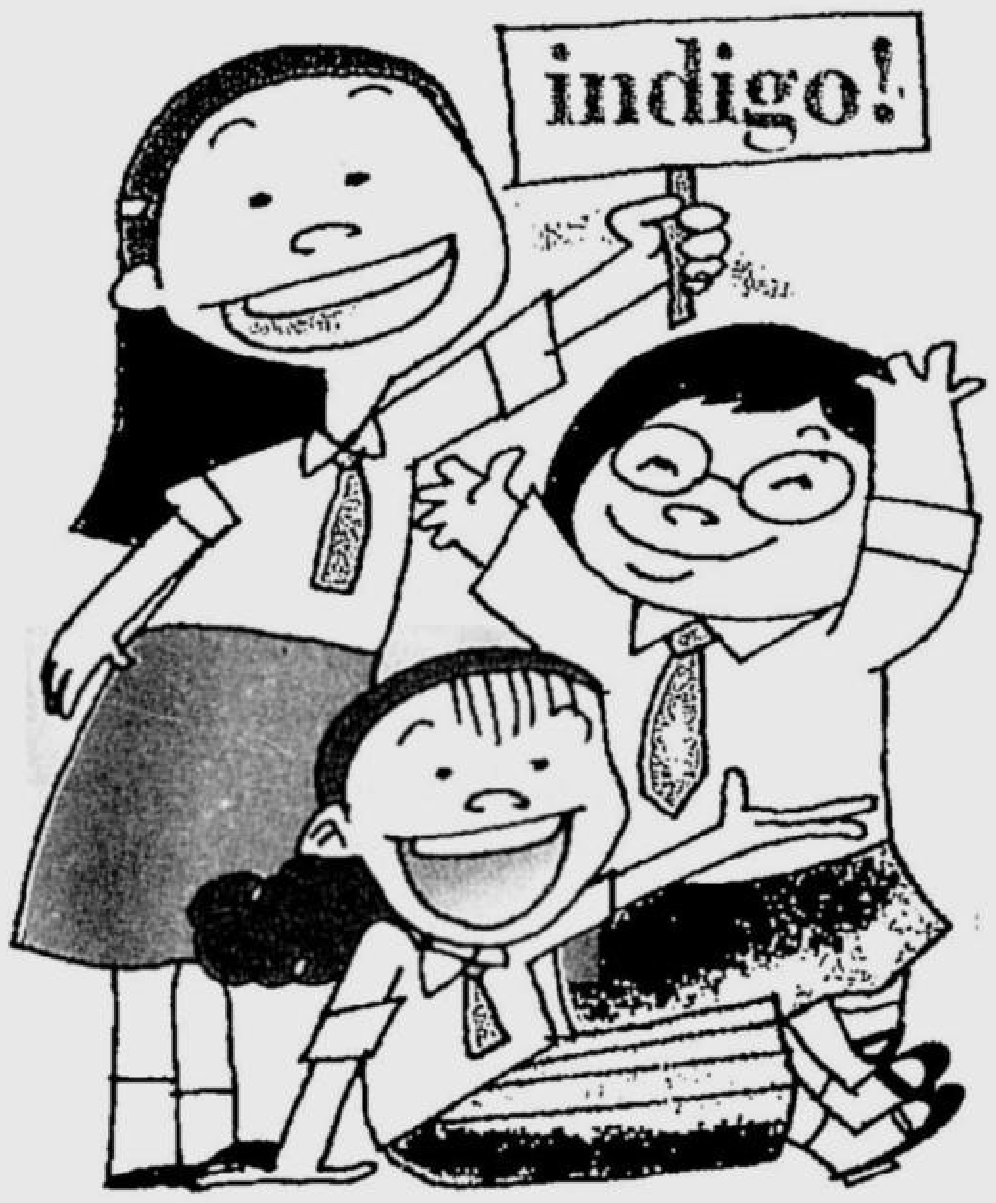
WRITING. Learn the basics of feature writing and writing for magazines on Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. The workshop's will be held at Earthlite 4/F C.O.D. Department Sore Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City. For more info call up 417-1521 and 0919-7405199.

WORKSHOP FOR A CAUSE. If you join this workshop, you get to help street kids go to school. The Learning Links Interactive Workshops cost P1,250 for 3 sessions, P2,500 for 6 sessions but part of the money goes to a fund for street children. If your parents want to help, have them call Learning Links at 0917-7916541 or send an e-mail to learninglinks@skyi-net.net.



A Happy Class

By Grade 6-Indigo
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City



GRADE 6-Indigo is a very happy class. We enjoy doing stuff together, even though we are so many—42—in the class. We all work together real hard in finishing class projects and activities.

Like, the Peace Rally for example. We all tried our best in making our presentation very unique and different from the other classes. Some of us were even scolded by our parents for staying late in school for practices. Some had even had to spend a lot of money just for buying the materials for our props. But we all enjoyed working on our presentation.

Our homeroom adviser is Ms Teves. She only stayed for about a month in our class because of she had a baby. Ms Jose and Mr. Delupio substituted for us.

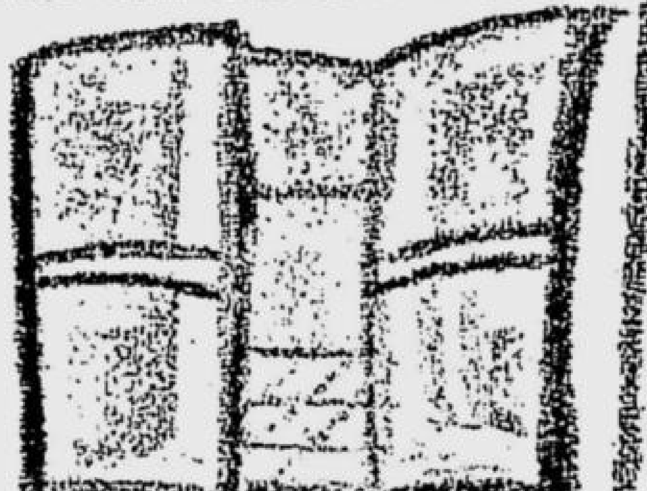
Two months then passed, when Ms Teves finally came back. We were happy she was back but we would all miss Ms Jose and Mr. Delupio. Sometimes, there are misunderstandings in the class. But the fights don't really last that long. The longest fight in 6-Indigo was about a week-long. Many of us also have wacky sense of humor. That's why we're always happy. Even teachers laugh with us. Grade 6-Indigo is a very happy class.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



One Question

I am a BIG Harry Potter Fan. I love the books. I think the story is cool. I was just so excited while reading it. I do not think the Harry Potter books contain an evil spirit. It's such a nice story and it's just fiction, anyway. I only have one question: Where does everyone get those rumors or news that Harry Potter is bad?—**BIANCA FRANCISCO**, 11, Parañaque City

Dear Bianca,

I think there are schools and religious groups prohibiting kids from reading the Harry Potter series. And as some letter writers have said, there are web pages on the Internet that say the same thing.

*A good idea would be to take the matter up in class. Maybe you can discuss this in Religion class or English class or even social studies. We'd be interested to hear what your class would think.—**The Editor***

Movie Fan

DEAR Editor,

Like others, I'm a big Harry Potter fan. If I see the actors Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson in person, I just might go crazy. I like them so much. If I had the money, I would fly to London and search for the Hogwarts movieset.—**GERLYN L. DELA CRUZ**, 12, Pembo, Makati City

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Saving the For

The forest animals were in danger of losing their home. Only Andres, the scrawny little boy, could help them

Story by Nishanth Parameswaran
Illustrations by Dindo Llana

WE START our story in a posh Makati office...

"YOU'RE fired!" bellowed Mr. Aguinaldo, the creator and president of Globotech Toys. Right in front of him, Globotech Toys' vice president Pablo Alejandro was stone-faced. But as he stepped out of his boss' office, an insane smile crept across his face. Someday, he would beat Mr. Aguinaldo. Someday he would have his revenge.

TWO years later in the jungles of Sulu, a scrawny little boy looked sadly at his bowl of chicken broth. Andres was 10, scrawny and pencil thin. He lived with his father in a mud house deep in the forest. Because he was very poor, he ate very little and he could not go to school.

He could only watch sadly as other boys and girls happily skipped to school with brand new bags, books, pens, notebooks and pencils.

For Andres, life was meals of chicken broth day in and day out, for bearkfast, lunch and dinner. It was all his father could feed him. Andres' father certainly didn't earn much as a factory worker for a mouthwash company.

But Andres had a special secret talent—he could converse with animals. Every day, Andres would sneak up to a secret hiding place in the forest to meet his animal friends. Every animal found this interesting and referred to him as the "chosen one" who would save them from doomsday.

BY THIS time Pablo Alejandro had managed to set up his own toy
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MEANWHILE, in the forest...

"Birds, reptiles, amphibians
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"Whichever forest it is, we mu
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Miguel the colugo shrieked. " But the only other forest is this one, our home."

"We have to protect our forest. It is out home, our very lives depend on it," croake
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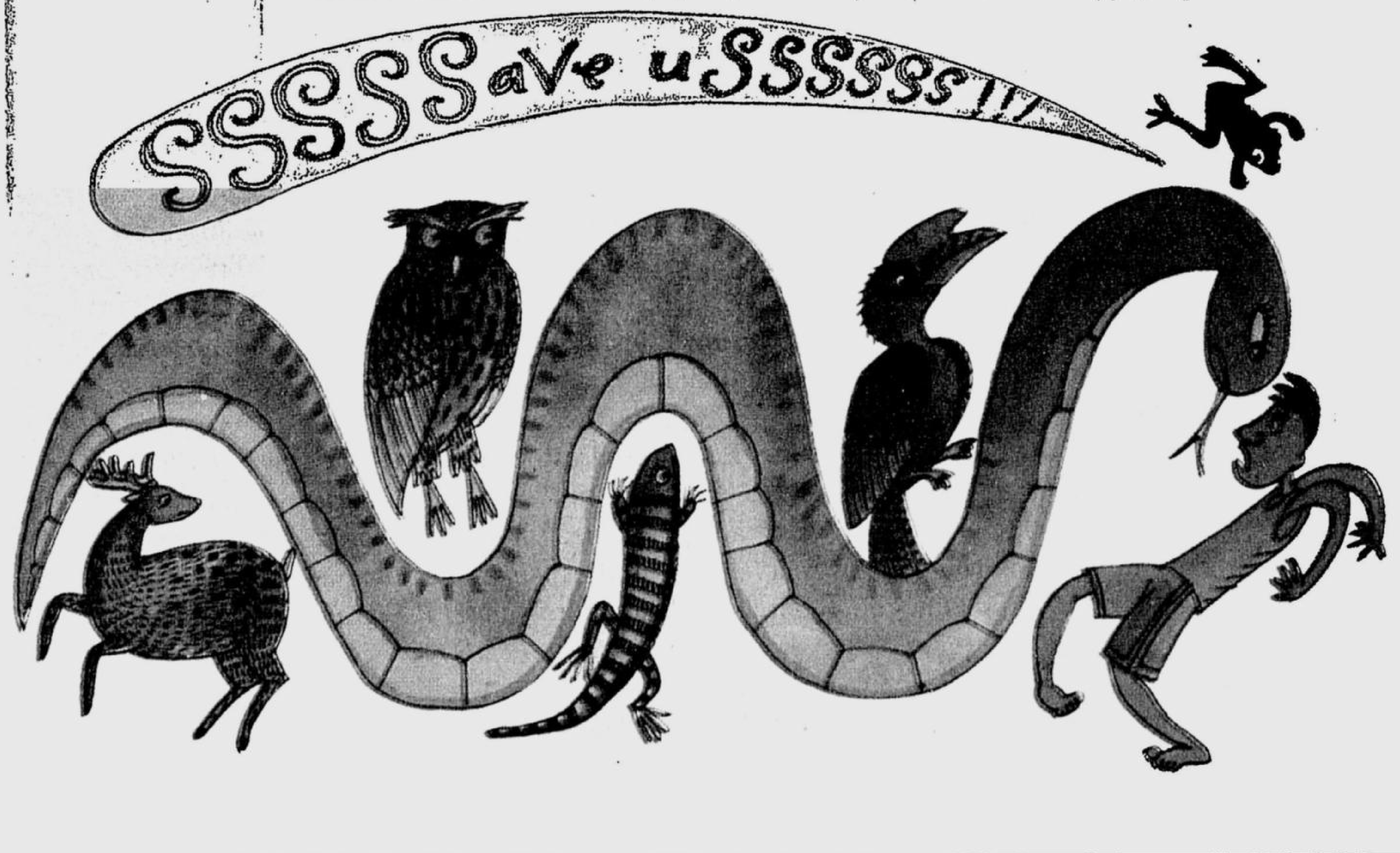
The next morning, a frantic Andres received the news of the coming disaster.

"But I am only a 10-year-old boy and they would only ig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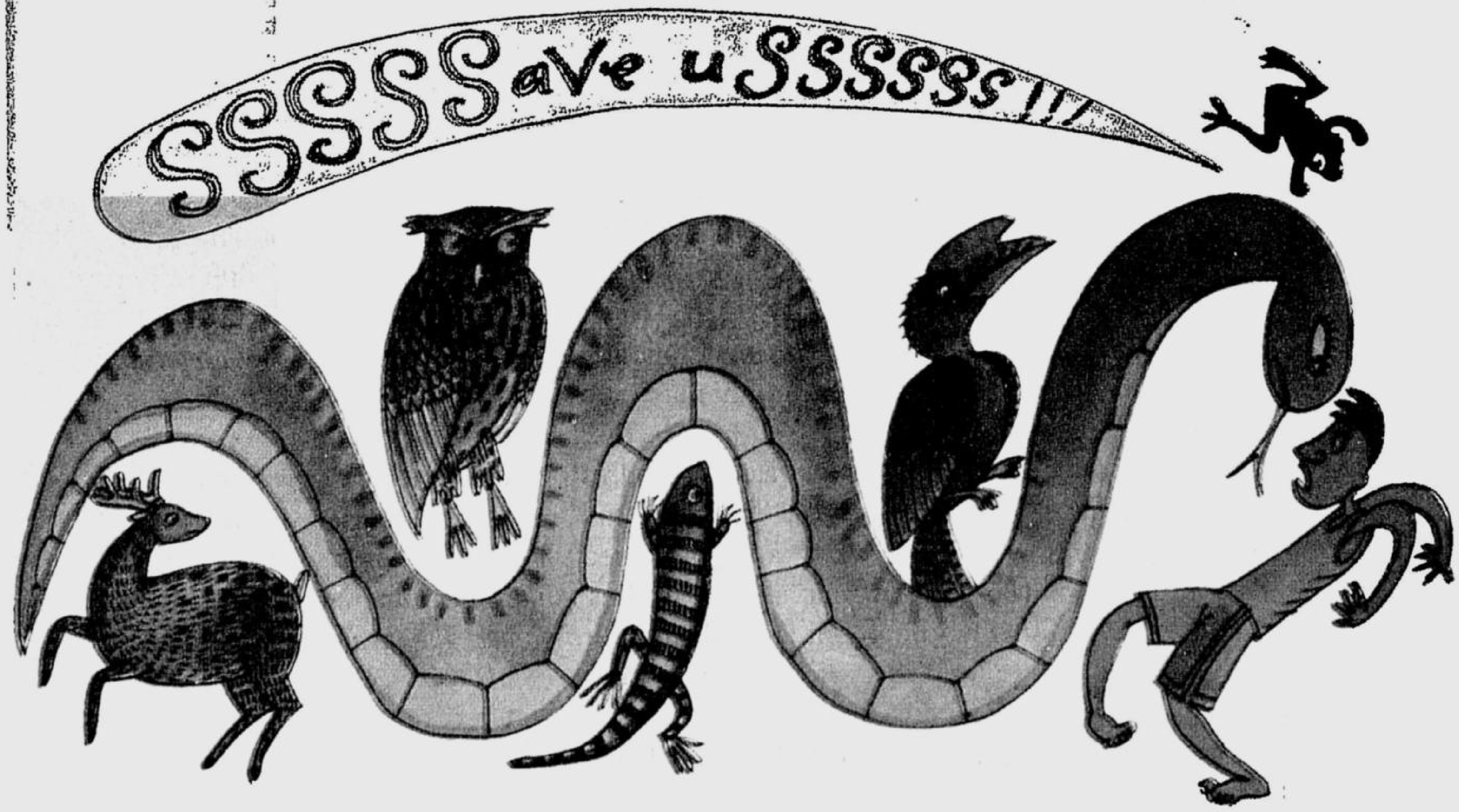
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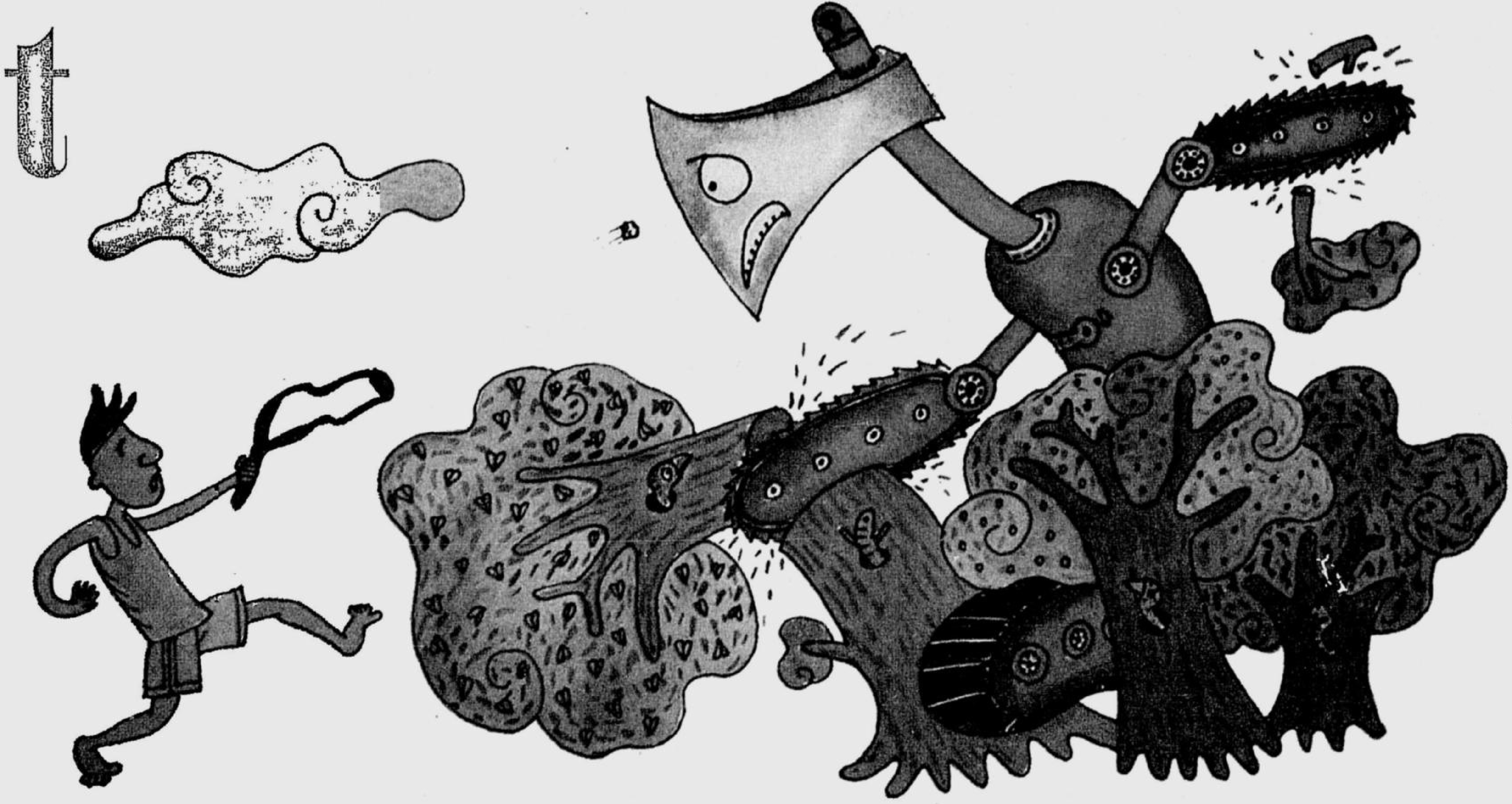

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nore my pleas!” said Andres.

“But you are our only savior!” the animals said in unison.

Andres had no other choice but to help his friends. But they all had to find out what they were up against. Manaul said he heard the Golem was a kind of giant robot capable of destroying anything!

“Oh great,” said Beguzman, the cobra. “How are we supposed to fight something like that. Elip the elephant is on vacation.”

“Well, I did overhear them talking about a technical fault in the eye ,” said Manaul.

“Excellent!” shrieked Andres in joy, and he ran home with his mind flashing with bright ideas.

“I hope at least one of his ideas is a good one,” said O, the owl.

“CHEEP! Cheep!” the ruckus of nestlings woke Andres up. Their cries of hunger were drowned by an amplified clang of metal! The Golem! Andres had to warn the animals before it was too late. He ran to the secret place and found the animals waiting.

Later on...“Charge!” The battle cry went for miles as the animals started pelting stones at the Golem’s eye as it approached. The Golem was two narra trees tall, black in color with a red eye of fury. The stones were flies to the Golem which it could swat away with laser beams.

Andres emerged from the thick bush of undergrowth, surprising the animals with a new toy he had made, a slingshot. With the aim of an excellent marksman, Andres fired a sharp stone that pierced the Golem’s eye who let out a high-pitched scream. The animals marveled at Andres’ plan, thinking the robot was dead, but their happiness was short-lived. It was still smashing through the forest despite the injury. Andres looked down in disappointment, for he knew the end was near, and he had failed the animals.

FZZZZZZZZZZT! Just then, Mother Nature joined the fight and struck the Golem with an angry bolt of lightning. The Golem fell with a huge. Andres called the cops who arrested the executives of Globotoy Company, including the scheming Pablo Alejandro.

Andres was given a commendations certificate, a scholarship and a hefty sum of money by environmental officials. This provided a good life for Andres and his father and allowed him to achieve his wish to go school. Life in the forest continued, undisturbed by humans, like it should always be.

***Nishanth**, 11, was born in Malaysia. He is a fifth-grader in International School Manila. He is actively involved in sports like soccer and basketball and enjoys board games like scrabble, boggle and monopoly. Nishanth enjoys science fiction and humorous novels.*

***Dindo** is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

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POOL WORK. Pat (left) and Elvis (right) Baldonado flash some pearly whites with their students at the Kiangan Hall swimming pool in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Training X2

The Baldonado brothers's formula for a good swimmer is good grades + strict training + fun

IN "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the Mirror of Erised (Mirror of Desire) was described as mirror that shows the deepest desires of our hearts. And if Pat and Elvis ever get the chance to look in it, they will probably see themselves as swimming coaches.

A Heart for the Sport

Fraternal twins (that means twins that are not identical) Pat and Elvis Baldonado have worked as swimming coaches for kids and kids at heart since 1982. They now coach the Sea Dragon Swimming Club which has members from Ateneo de Manila Grade School and Xavier School.

Teaching swimming is simply their passion, say the brothers. And it's especially fulfilling for them when they're student win contests later on.

Like, did you know that top Filipino swimmer Eric Buhain said the Baldonado brothers helped him a lot in becoming the athlete that he is? Wow! That must have felt really cool for the swimming coaches.

"Well, if we didn't love our job, we wouldn't have lasted 15 years," Elvis says.

Pat and Elvis clown a lot with their students but are very strict when it comes to swimming excercises and technique. Also, their pretty strict about their students' grades, too.

What? What have grades got to do with swimming, we ask.

"If they don't have good grades at school, we don't let them train," Pat says. "they have to have good grades first before they can swim."

"Their studies have to be their first priority and not anything else," Elvis adds. ***Maria Zobel Certeza***

Do you know a grown-up who

- **is fun to be with**
- **has an exciting job**
- **keeps an amazing hobby**
- **is all of the above???**

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, YOU'LL get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ______ years old
and is my______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
and
5)____________________.

My nominee lives at________
____________________.
Give him/her a call at ______
____
or send him/her an e-mail
at____________________.
By the way, I'm__________
____________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is ___________
____________________.
You may call me at _______
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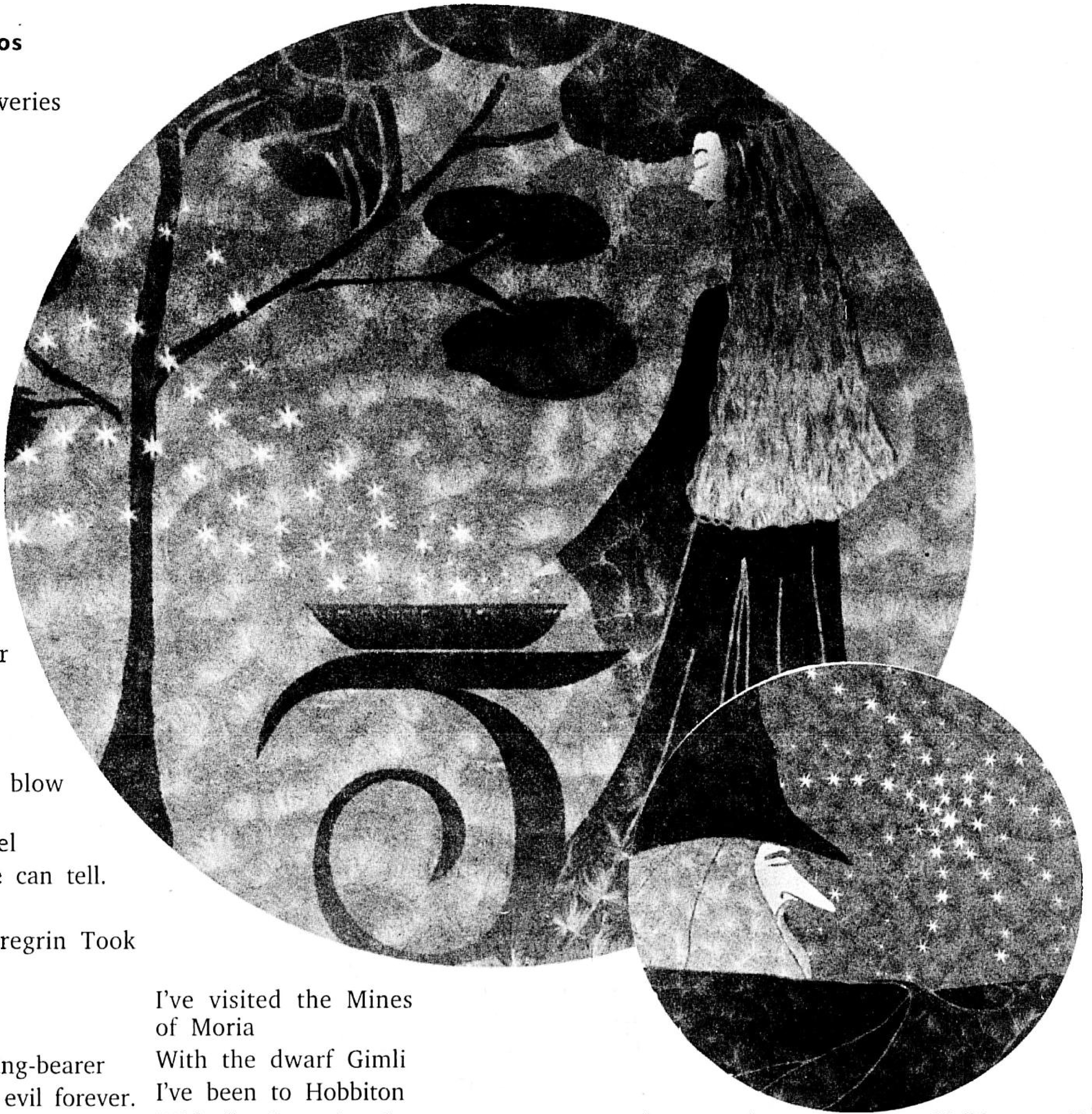
Daydreams and Reveries

By Santina Joy B. Lora
Illustrations by Redge Abos



I've had daydreams and reveries
Visions and illusions
A series of thoughts
Images and emotions.

I am often out of myself
Thinking of Tolkien and
his elves
Thinking of Middle Earth
so wonderful
And the one ring
so powerful.

I imagine myself as Frodo
Also in Bag End like Bilbo
I've been Legolas
the prince of Mirkwood
I've been Aragorn or Strider
with his hood.

I've met Gandalf the Grey
And watched his fireworks blow away
I've met with Lady Galadriel
Things that will happen she can tell.

I've shared pranks with Peregrin Took and Meriadoc Brandybuck
And why they're safe now
is just plain luck
I've tried the role of the ring-bearer
Bearing the ring that wants evil forever.

I've met with Saruman the White
And Sauron the deceiver
I've met with the Ring Wraiths, the Nazgul
Also with Gollum or Smeagol.

I've been with the nasty orcs
And the ugly goblins
I've been in the Shire
With adventurer Baggins.

I've visited the Mines of Moria
With the dwarf Gimli
I've been to Hobbiton
With fat Samwise Gamgee.

I've traveled to the woods of Lorien
Also to the Prancing Pony of Bree
I've journeyed to the land of Mordor
Where everyone is bound to flee.

I've encountered so many people
I've visited so many places
I've played lots of roles
And met lots of great faces.

There are lots more I would like to tell
But find out for yourself as well
My daydreams are from books I've read
Try it for yourself, just lean back and rest your head.

***Santina**, 12, is a "The Lord of the Rings" and Tolkien fan. She studies at the University of the Philippines Grade School.*

***Redge** is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Love Songs-1

Here's a musical quiz to get you in the mood for Valentine's Day. Listed are lines from all-time favorite love songs and your goal is to give the title of each tune. To help you along, we've included the artist or artists who made the lines all so memorable.

1. *Alam kong hindi mo alam, narito lang*
ako Maghihintay kahit kailan
Mangangarap kahit hindi man ngayon
Mamahalin mo rin, mamahalin mo rin

(Aiza Seguerra)

2. *Every night in my dreams*
I see you, I feel you
That is how I know you go on
Far across the distance
And spaces between us
You have come to show you go on

(Celine Dion)

3. *I'm not looking for someone to talk to*
I've got my friends, I'm more than OK
I've got more than a girl could wish for
I live my dreams but it's not all they say
Still I believe I'm missing something real
I need someone who really sees me

(The Corrs)

4. *Mayroong lungkot sa iyong mga mata*
At kay bigat ng iyong dinadala
Kahit 'di mo man sabihin
Paghihirap mo'y nadarama ko rin

(Rey Valera)

5. *I hope life treats you kind*
And I hope you have all that you ever dreamed of
And I wish you joy and happiness
but above all of this, I wish you love

(Whitney Houston)

6. *Day after day I must face*
a world of strangers
Where I don't belong,
I'm not that strong
It's nice to know that there's
someone I can turn to
Who will always care,
you're always there

(The Carpenters)

7. *You are my first romance*
And I'm willing to take a chance
That till life is through
I'll still be loving you

(Jose Mari Chan & Regine Velasquez)

8. *I want her everywhere and*
if she's beside me
I know I need never care
But to love her is to need her everywhere
Knowing that love is to share
Each one believing that love never dies
Watching her eyes and
hoping I'm always there

(The Beatles)

9. *My love there's only you in my life;*
The only thing that's right;
My first love.
You're every breath that I take;
You're every step I make.

(Lionel Ritchie & Diana Ross)

10. *Ang ating buhay maikli aking hirang*
Kung kaya't kailangan
ang pagsuyo'y wagas kailanman
Ang sumpa ko sa iyo asahan
Ikaw lamang ang aking iibigin
magpakailanman

(Celeste Legaspi)

11. *Time, you found time enough to love*
And I found love enough to hold you
So tonight I'll stir the fire you feel inside
Until the flames of love enfold you

(Barry Manilow)

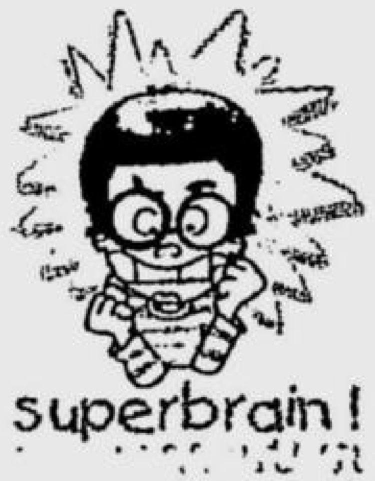
12. *Oh and I, I need you and*
my arms need you to hold
You're my world my heart my soul
If you ever leave
Baby, you would take away everything,
good in my life

(LeAnn Rimes)

Answers

1. **"Pagdating ng Panahon"**
2. **"My Heart Will Go On"**
3. **"All the Love in the World"**
4. **"Kung Kailangan Mo Ako"**
5. **"I Will Always Love You"**
6. **"I Won't Last a Day Without You"**
7. **"Please Be Careful with My Heart"**
8. **"Here, There and Everywhere"**
9. **"Endless Love"**
10. **"Gaano Kita Kamahal"**
11. **"Somewhere in the Night"**
12. **"How Do I Live Without You"**

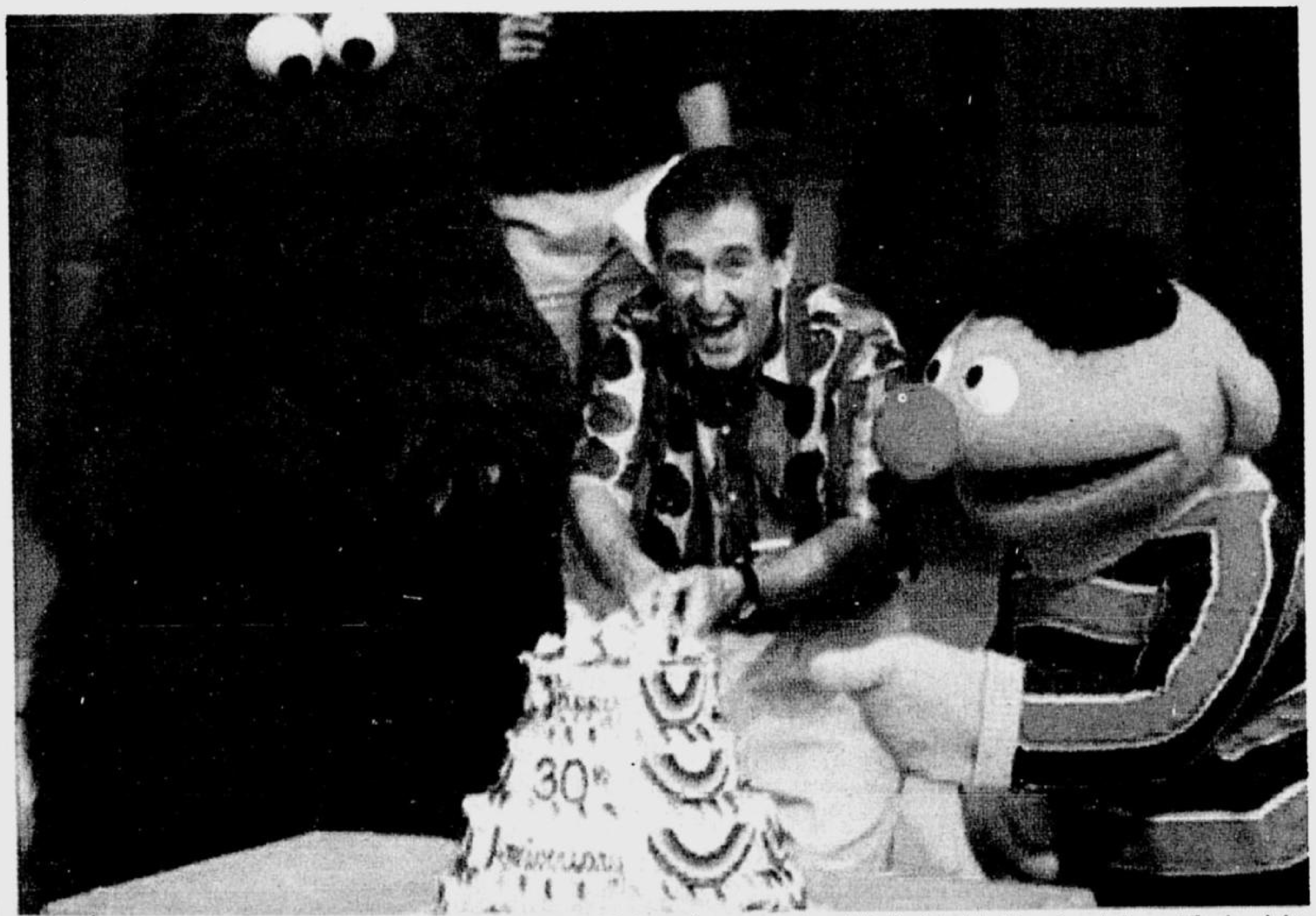
RATINGS


superbrain!
11 - 12

excellent!
9 - 10

good!
7 - 8

'Sesame Street' Getting Huge Makeover



MONSTER CAKE. Sesame Street's Bob McGrath cuts a 30th anniversary cake with the Cookie Monster, left, and Ernie, right. With the opening of its 33rd season on Monday, television's best-known children's show will unveil its most dramatic overhaul ever. In the Philippines, Sesame Street is shown on cable TV daily from 7-8 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel. *AP*

ELMO and the "Sesame Street" gang are getting a makeover.

With the opening of its 33rd season on Monday, television's best-known children's show will unveil its most dramatic overhaul ever, one designed with competition and a changing audience in mind.

Rest assured, Elmo is keeping his red fur. And his goldfish. The street won't be different, but the way it's presented to young viewers will be.

Younger Viewers

"Sesame Street" was created in the late 1960s, aimed at an audience of 3- to 5-year-olds. One purpose was to educate poor children who didn't go to preschool.

Now the show's primary audience is 2-year-olds, many of them already savvy television viewers also familiar with the structure of day care or preschool, said Rosemarie Truglio, chief researcher at the PBS show's production company, Sesame Workshop.

Executive producer Michael Loman said that when they found their audience was getting younger, "we wanted to meet their needs, but at the same time we didn't want to lower the intelligence or the challenge involved in the show."

Elmo's World

So he tinkered with the format. For years, "Sesame Street" had a single "street story" that would be revisited periodically throughout the hour. Parents told researchers that their children's attention would wander, so now the story will be told in one 10-minute block.

Three years ago producers broke out Elmo's character into a separate "Elmo's World" segment and it became a big hit. Now Ernie will get the same treatment. "Journey to Ernie" will be a daily segment where viewers will play along with Big Bird, "searching" for Ernie in a computer-generated world.

Changes

There also will be separate "Monster Clubhouse" features and regular points in the show where a letter and number of the day are introduced.

"Sesame Street," which was loosely modeled after the old variety show "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In," is essentially becoming a series of individual stories.

"What we know about children is they like predictability," Truglio said. "So we're keeping the order the same."

On Monday's show, "Sesame Street" for the first time will address fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The events won't be discussed directly; "Sesame Street" will talk about the fears and emotions children have been expressing.

Sensitive topics

In the story, Elmo is scared when there's a fire at Hooper's Store, so firefighters invite him to take a tour of their firehouse. He feels much safer afterward.

Subsequent episodes over the next few months will deal with the topics of loss, bullying and inclusion of different groups, Loman said.

The people at "Sesame Street" are far too proud to admit they're taking cues from other successful programs, but some of the new things being tried have obvious antecedents.

"Journey to Ernie" and other efforts to stress interactivity andproblem-solving are similar, for example, to Nickelodeon's "Blue's Clues."

Loman, a former comedy writer who has been at the show's helm for nine years, admitted to trepidation at changing a show that has become an institution. No one wants to be known as the person who messed things up.

But if Sesame Workshop doesn't keep in tune with society, the show risks becoming a relic, he said.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

FRIENDS IN
Space
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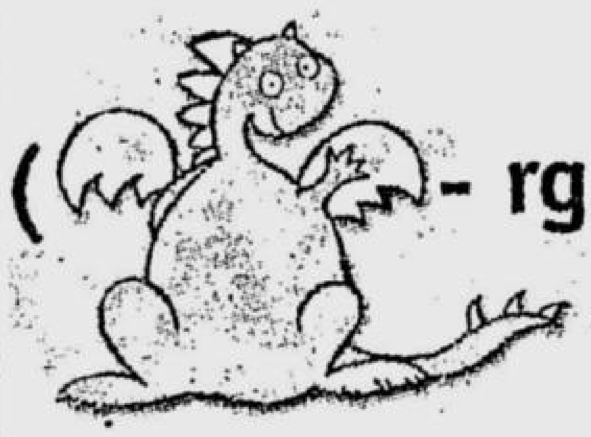
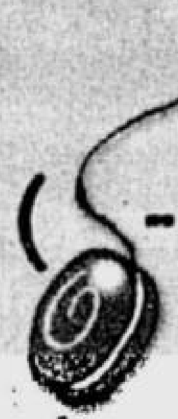
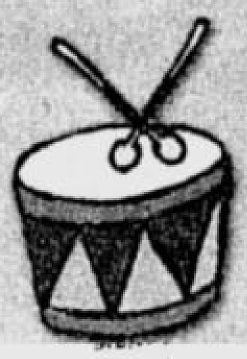
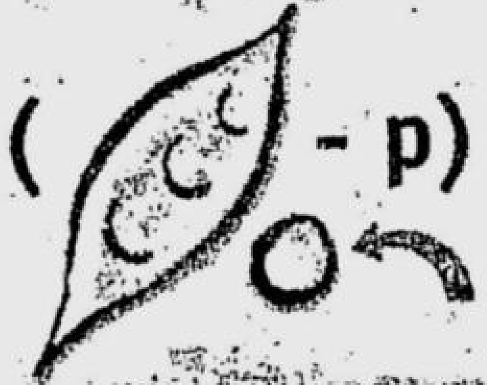
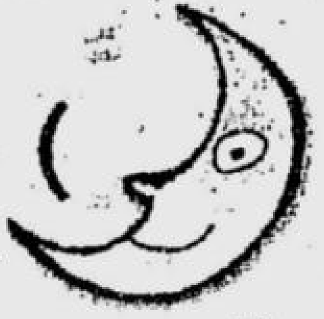
PASTE PHOTO HERE

WORDMATH

John is smiling because he just did something fun. Solve the equation he made to find out what it is!

( - rgon) + ( - oyo) + ( - um)

+ ( - p) + ( - oon)

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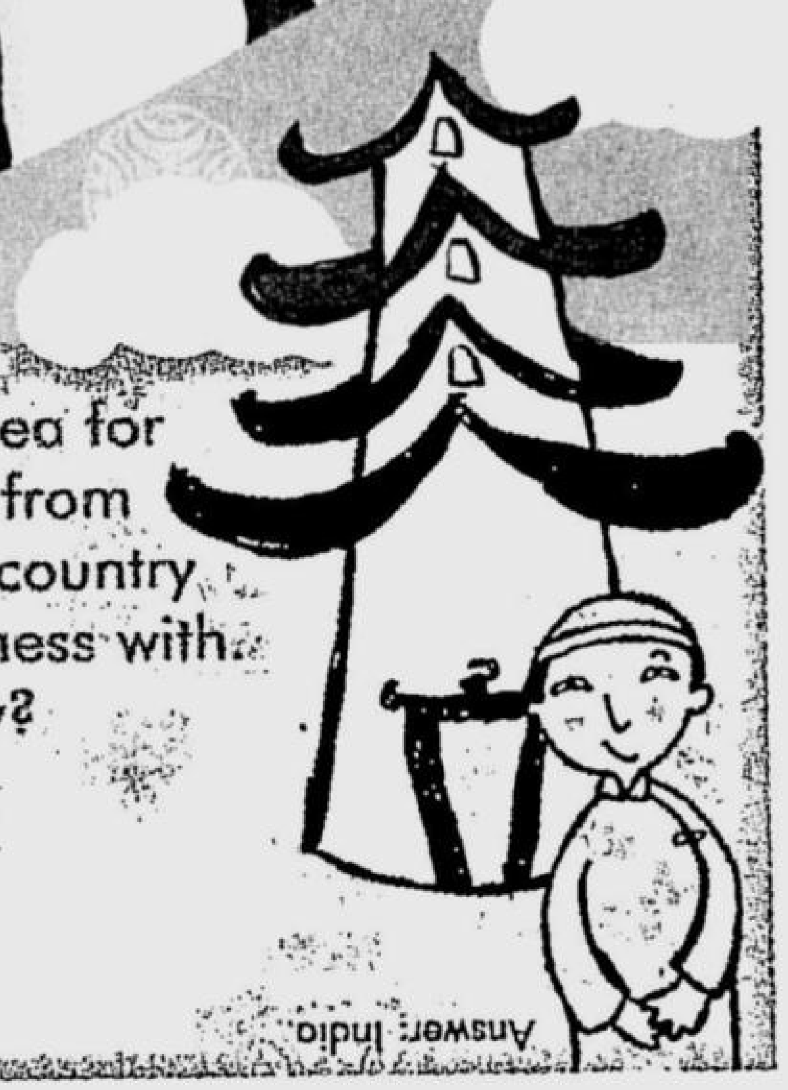
Answer: daydream!



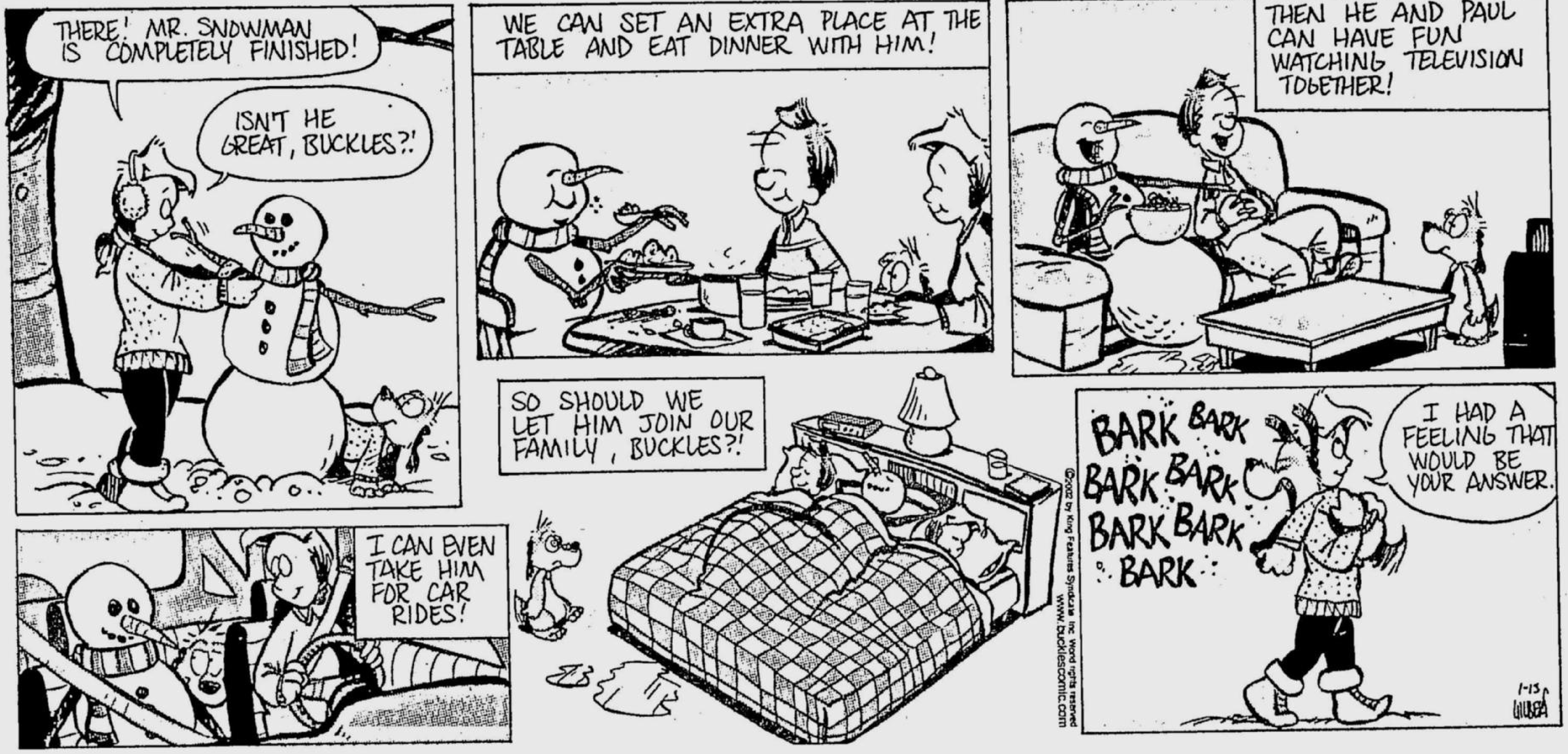
The Chinese got their idea for their beautiful pagodas from the structures of another country that they were doing business with. Do you know which country?

○ Holland
○ India
○ Pakistan

Answer: India

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


THERE! MR. SNOWMAN IS COMPLETELY FINISHED!
ISN'T HE GREAT, BUCKLES?!
WE CAN SET AN EXTRA PLACE AT THE TABLE AND EAT DINNER WITH HIM!
THEN HE AND PAUL CAN HAVE FUN WATCHING TELEVISION TOGETHER!
I CAN EVEN TAKE HIM FOR CAR RIDES!
SO SHOULD WE LET HIM JOIN OUR FAMILY, BUCKLES?!
BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK
I HAD A FEELING THAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER.
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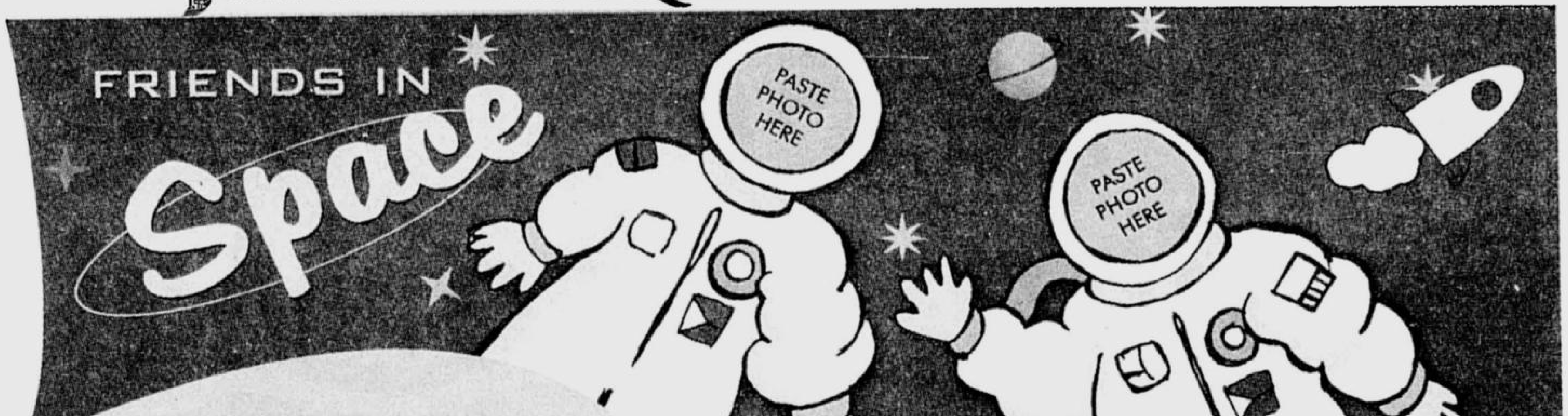
www.bucklescomic.com
1-13
GILBERT

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa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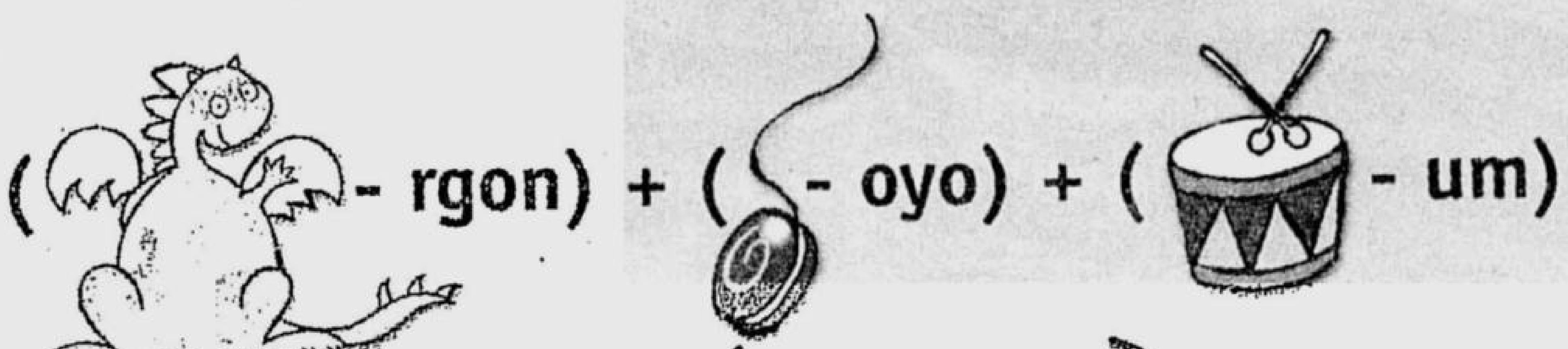

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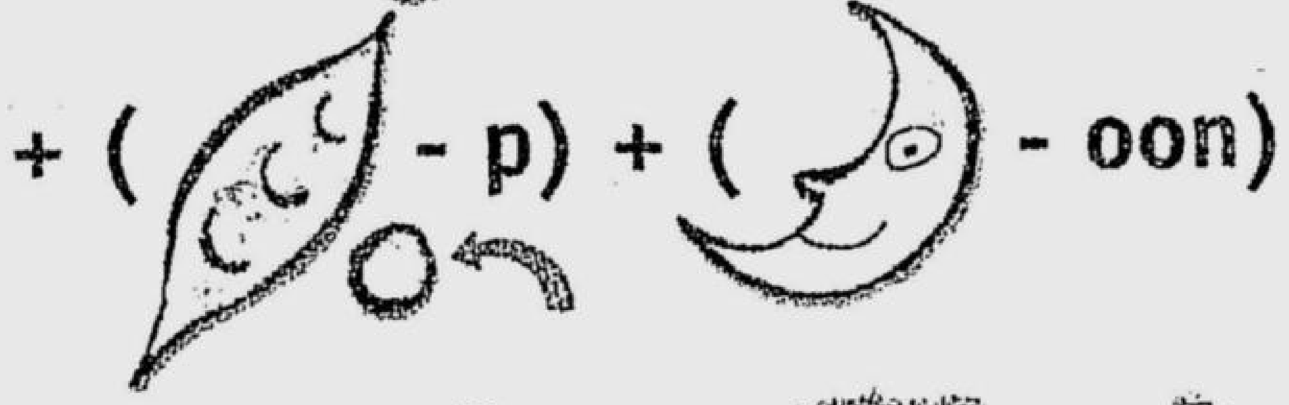

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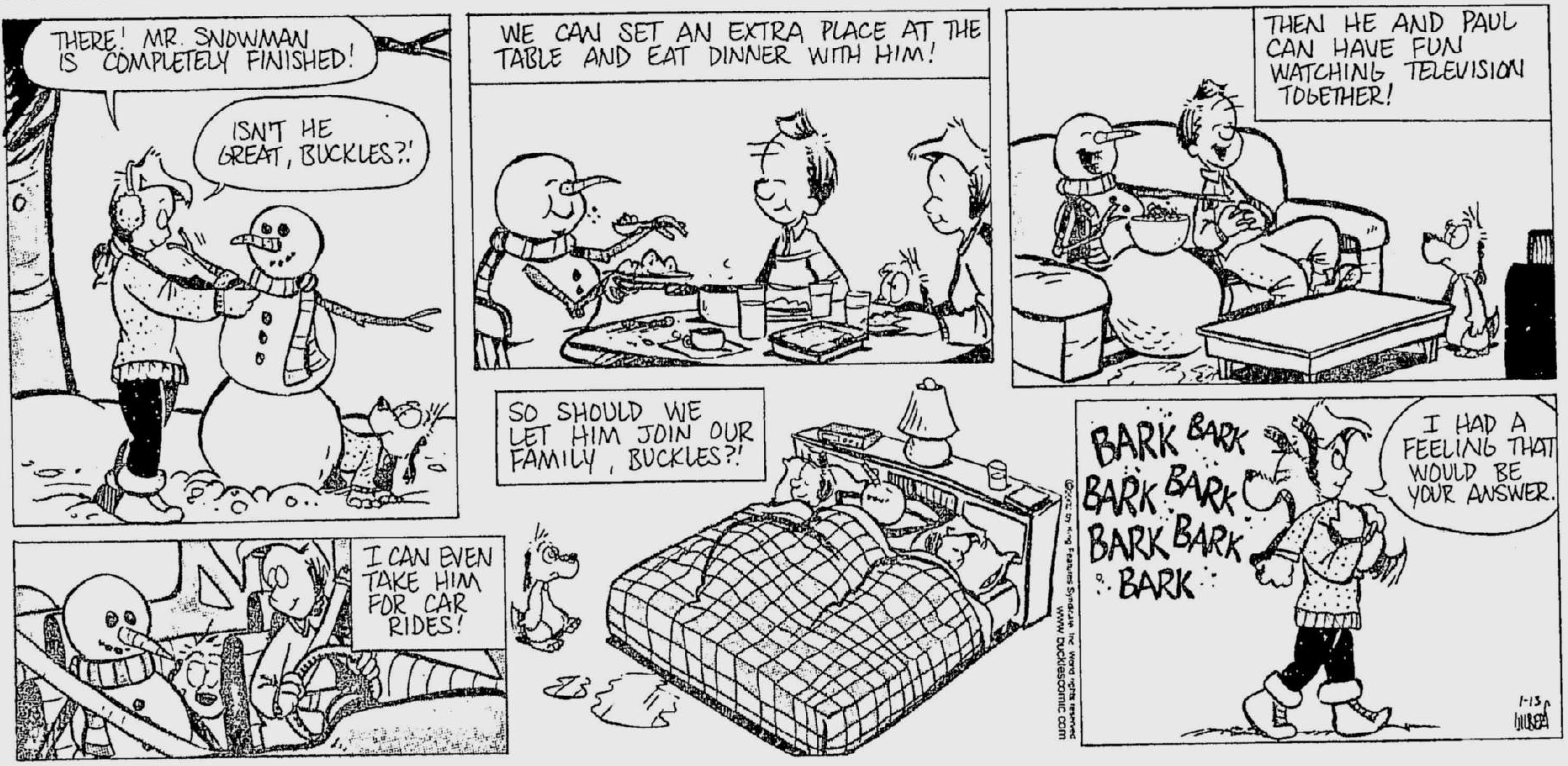
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